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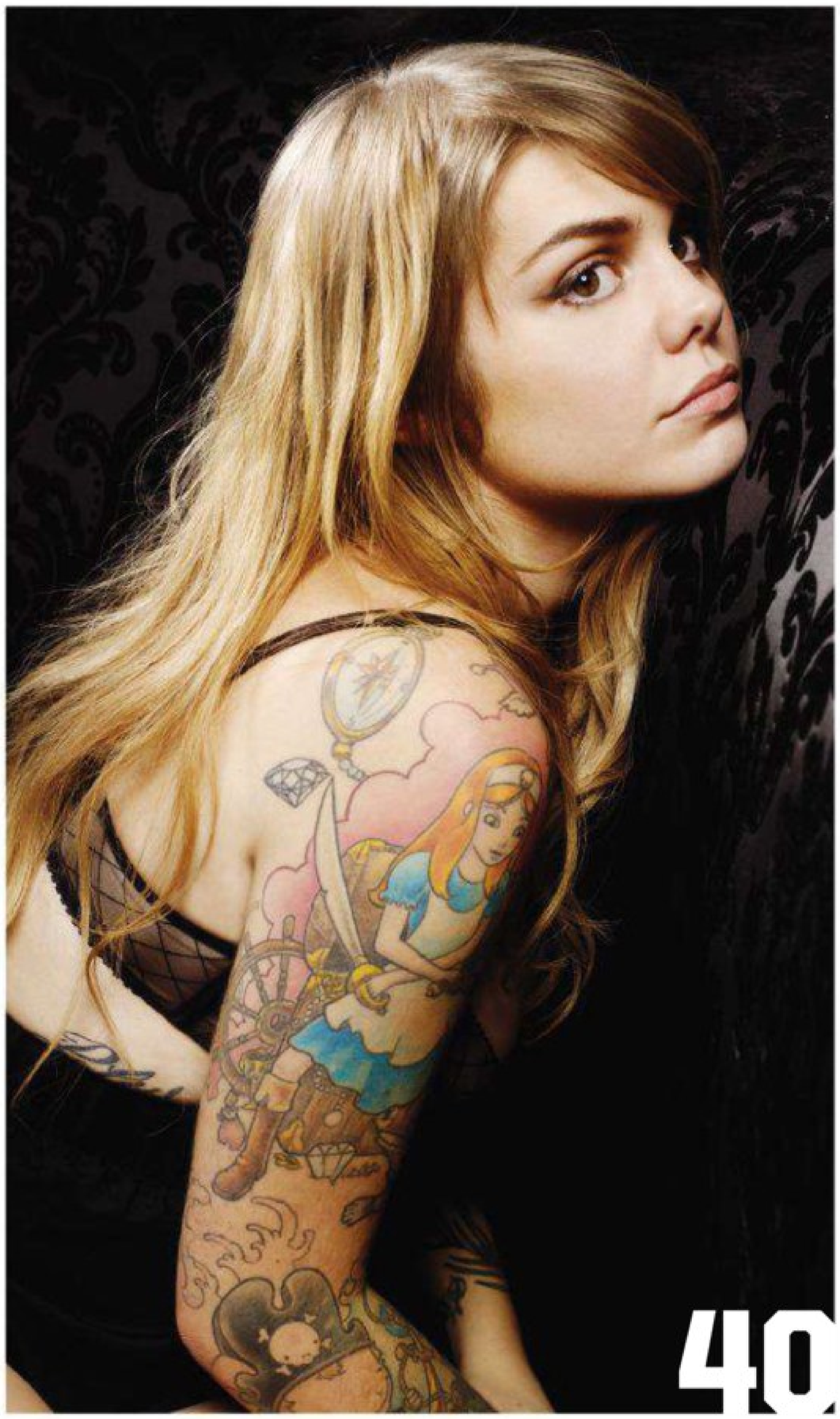
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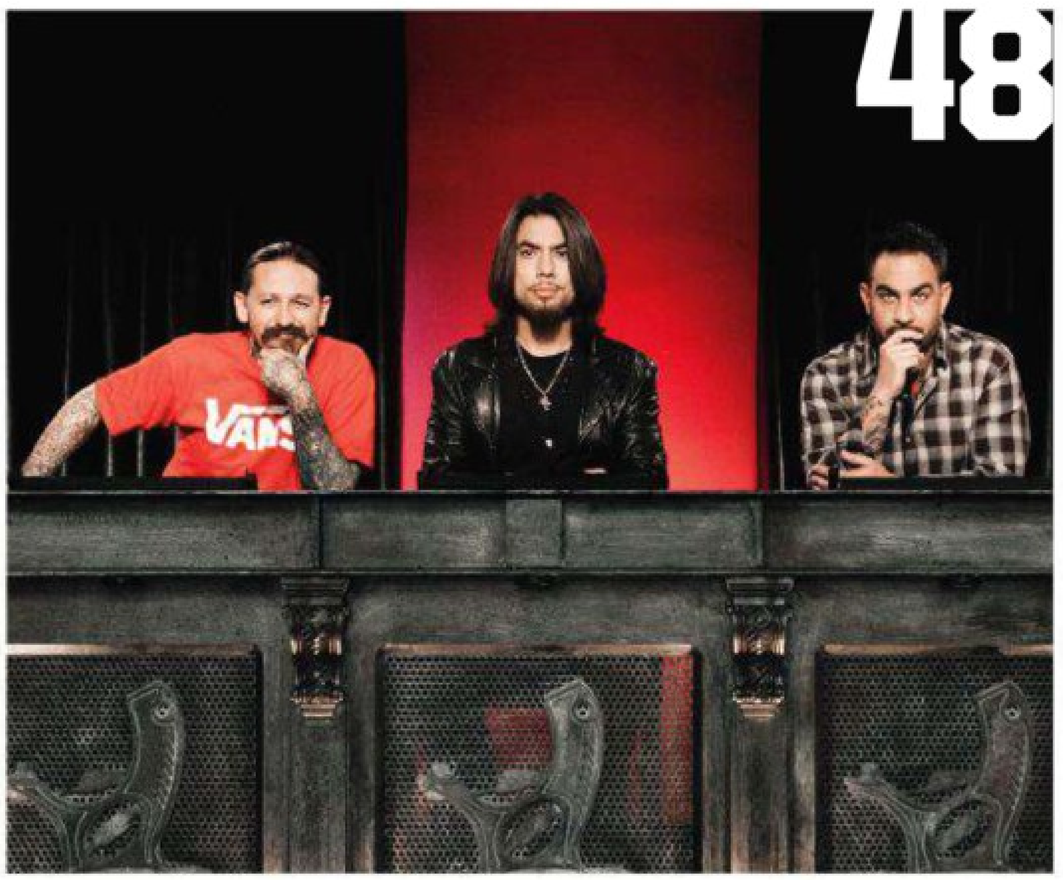
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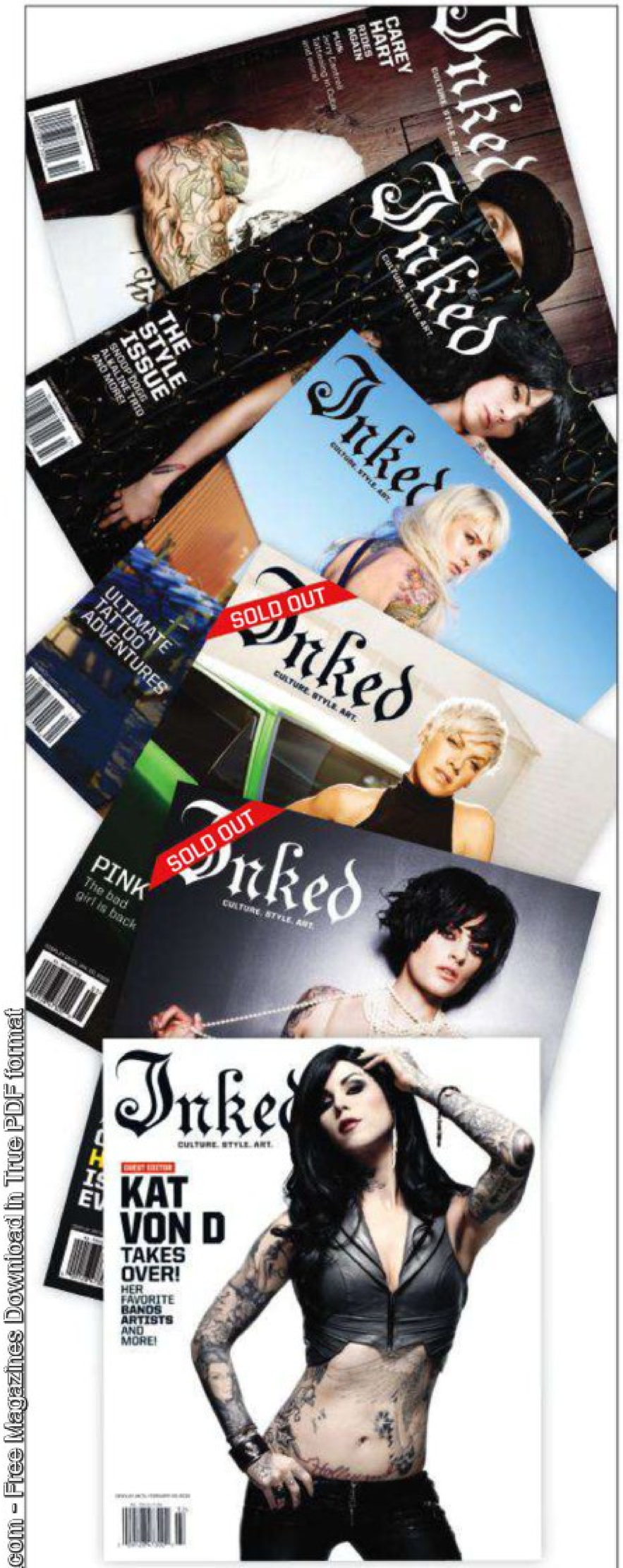
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ink well

As the year comes to a close and the holiday season is upon us I'm thinking about a few things: Have we given you an outstanding product over the course of the year? What should we get those special people in our lives for the holidays? And what do we want for Christmas?

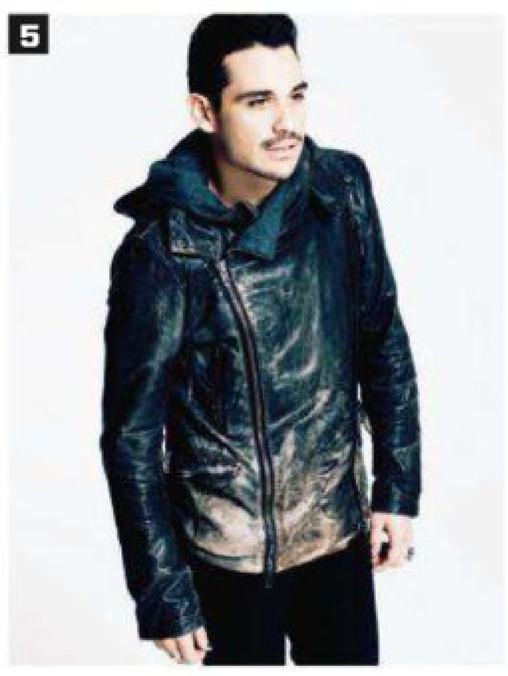
To answer my first question, I'll assume from your letters, e-mails, Facebook comments, and smoke signals that you like what we are doing with INKED. Please e-mail me to let us know what more we can do—and no, sorry, we can't send you an Inked Girl with a subscription renewal.

To deal with the second pondering, I've decided that no matter where we stand financially during these tough times, it's worth it to set aside some money to go and support your local tattoo artist. Let's all make mini-miracles for each other this season.

As for my own wants this Christmas, well, my first early present was Marisa Kakoulas's (1) interview with Don Ed Hardy. The rest of the stuff I'd like is scattered throughout the magazine (*ahem*).

And because you are a special person in my life, I hope this issue can help with your wish list too. Perhaps you'll like a video game Matt Bertz (2) writes about, some of the snow gear shot by Michael Kraus (3), or an iPad Hand-Stand, which was created by Jamie Smith, a tattooed entrepreneur brought to our attention by Nadia Kadri (4). If not, then maybe a piece of clothing from Nicholas Routzen's (5) Sunset Strip photo shoot? Or you could catch retro-look fever from Young-Ah Kim's (6) styling of singer Coeur de Pirate and hit the vintage shop. Heck, you might even be inspired enough by one of the tattoos on Inked Girl Katherine George—shot by Magdalena Wosinska (7) and interviewed by Cristina Guarino (8)—to get your own new work.

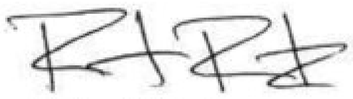
No matter your wish, read the magazine, tear out things you like from our pages, and hand them to your loved ones as clues or bring them to your local tattoo artist as inspiration. May all your holidays be inked.









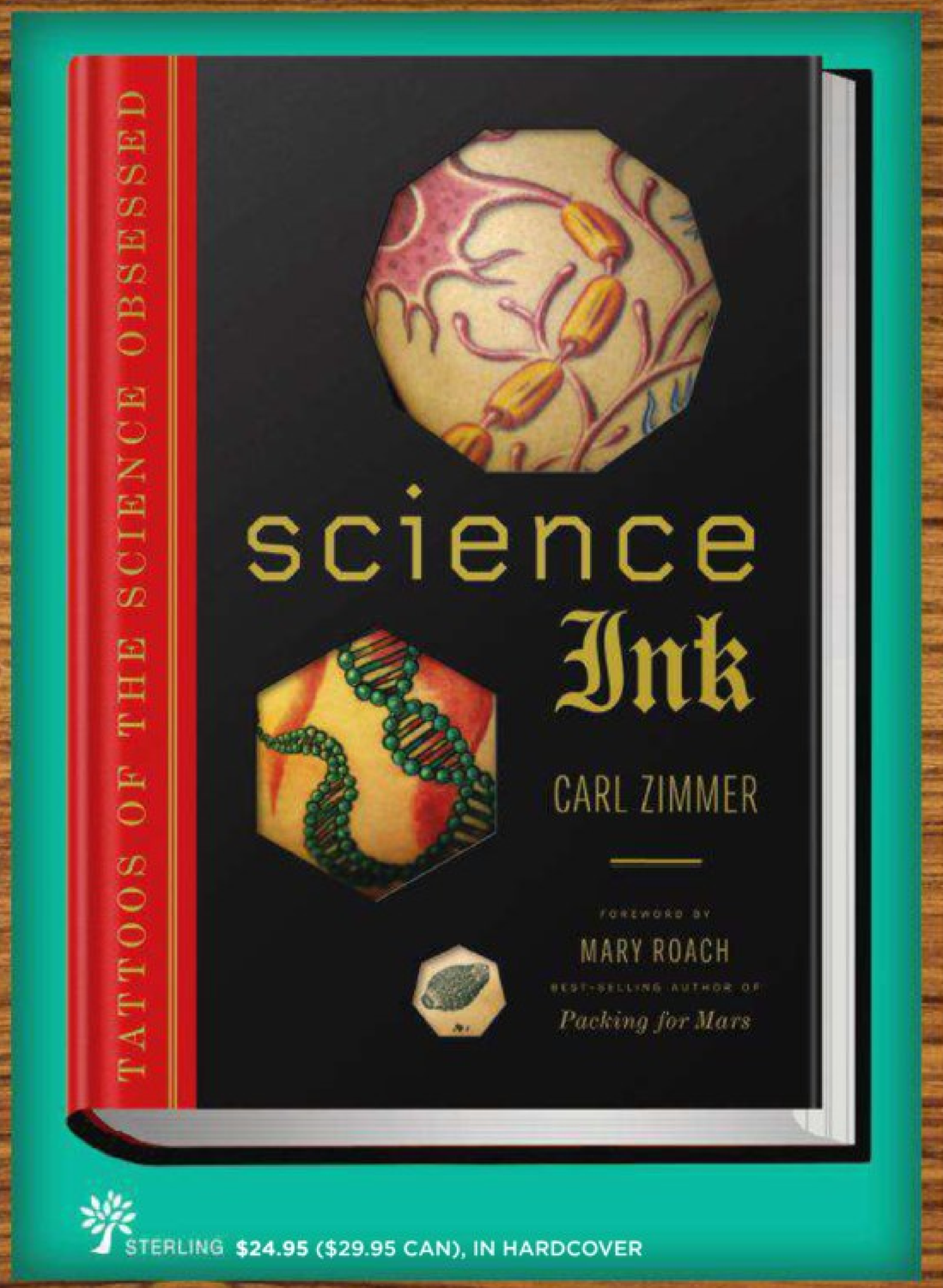


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INK, meet SCIENCE

With more than 300 tattoos dedicated to numerous scientific fields, *Science Ink* reveals the passions and obsessions of science lovers and tattoo enthusiasts from all over the globe.



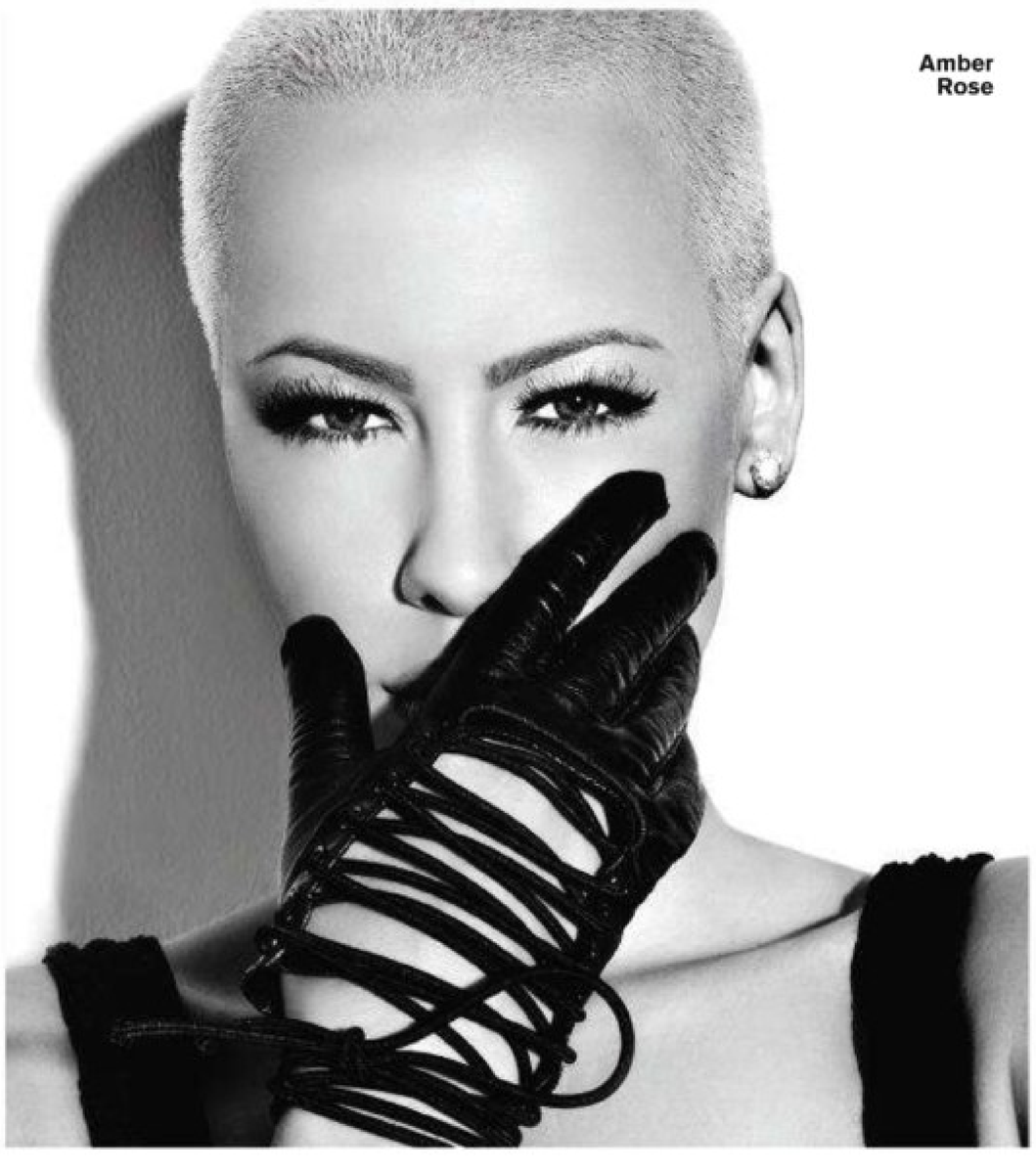
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Amber Rose



AMBER ROSE
Sam Heron Now she IS hot.

Eric Waguespack No hair, no worries

Amanda Ross To the person who said the only thing hot about her is her face, you obviously haven't seen her ass.

LAUREN LUSK
Rachel Rosales Awesome article. Thanks 4 sharing that. :)

MXPX
Andres Maldonado Good to see good ol' punk is never dead!!!

LYLE TUTTLE
Dallas Wheeler And people said ink won't look good on an old man. Bahhhhhh.

BETTY LIPSTICK
Carlos Avina iPad wallpaper. ;)



READER OF THE MONTH

MICHELLE AVILA
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Want to be a Reader of the Month?
E-mail photos to **inkedgirl@inkedmag.com**

BETTY WHOOP!
Holy moly have you found the prize! Betty Lipstick's profile [October 2011] is truly one of the most beautiful and interesting you have done since I have viewed your publication. Congratulations to you and to Betty on your hottest layout yet.
R. Corwin
Houston, TX

RESPECT YOUR ELDERS
Lyle Tuttle's contributions to the art form and industry are immeasurable, but the thing is this: No matter how many tattoos guys like Lyle Tuttle and Sailor Jerry Norman Collins did in their heyday, the industry was always taboo, underground, and, for the most part, socially unacceptable. I feel the industry's real, true awakening was the arrival of reality TV, when shows like *Miami Ink* and *LA Ink* brought tattoos to a worldwide audience and made them socially acceptable in our culture. But make no mistake, without Tuttle or Sailor Jerry, tattoo culture would never have achieved its status in our culture today.
Freddie DeJesus
Catasauqua, PA

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US
Thank you for putting out a great magazine that is a one-stop shop for stories, fashion, history, chicks, and ink. It is great to get it out here in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Currently I'm on active duty with the Navy, serving a nine-month tour in Afghanistan. I left a wife and 20-month-old twins back in Jacksonville, FL. I just read the article "Don't Tread on Me" [September 2011] and it is refreshing to get some alternative stars out here. We need more of it! Thank you for what you do and what you produce.
Kyle DeLay
Kandahar, Afghanistan

I'm an active duty sailor serving in Afghanistan. I got a hold of your September 2011 issue … it usually takes a while for magazines to get out here. I read the article about Rooftop visiting Iraq and think it's badass that people like that come out to see us. No one wants someone like Katy Perry out here anyways. I appreciate all the work you guys do.
Chris Mencke
Afghanistan

WRITE US. Got something to say? Send all praise, notes of complaint, story suggestions, and other comments to letters@inkedmag.com. All submissions should include the writer's name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity, length, and content. **Also join the party at facebook.com/inkedmag.**

AMBER ROSE, SARAH MCCOLGAN; MICHELLE, PETER GONZALES



STYLIST, TERRI ROSE; AMERICAN APPAREL BLACK BIKINI TOP AND BLACK HIGH-WAISTED BOTTOMS, EXPRESS BLACK LEATHER VEST

MY FIRST INK

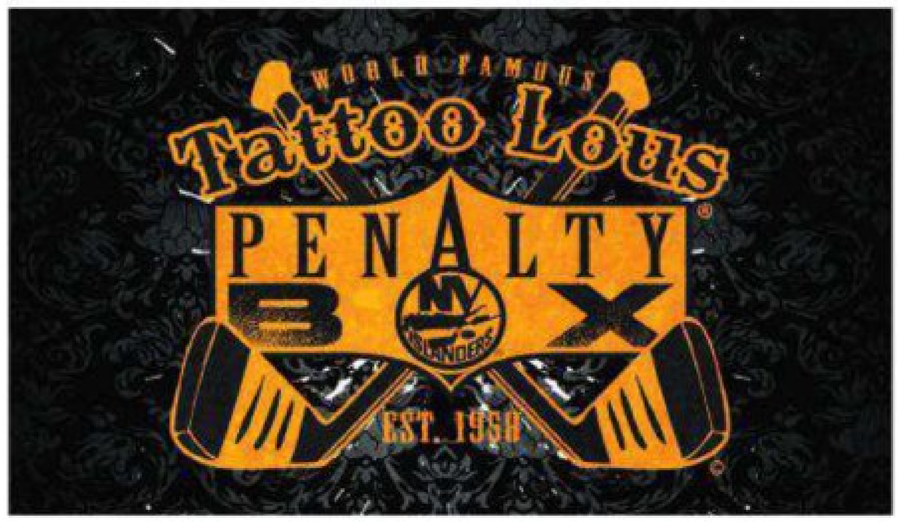
Name: Ev Ryan
Occupation: model, photographer, actress
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
"I was 19 when I got my first tattoo at Green Avenue Tattoo in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. I was a shop apprentice and the only employee without one, so it was sort of my initiation. I got a huge Hannya mask on my upper left arm. I chose the Hannya mask because of its meaning, and my boss, who was my idol, had the same mask on his left arm. And what's cooler than getting a mask that symbolizes a jealous female demon on your arm? I love the style it was done in; unlike the traditional super-dark Japanese tattoos, it's light and more West Coast. I love my Hannya."

PHOTO BY TOM MEDVEDICH

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WINS AND NEEDLES

The New York Islanders are the first NHL team to bring tattooing into the rink. During select home games at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, the team's management has invited Long Island, NY, shop Tattoo Lou's to set up a station on the concourse. "Our team is thrilled to bring another Long Island institution to the Coliseum, especially one from such a unique industry," says Justin Johnson, senior vice president of corporate partnerships and marketing for the Islanders. "Tattoo Lou's is … a great fit with our energetic team on the ice and our youthful fan base around Long Island."

NOAH DEA WHAT THAT TATTOO IS?

Ryan Gosling, the actor who played Noah Calhoun in *The Notebook* and recently starred in *Drive* and *The Ides of March*, explained his curious forearm tattoo to the U.K.'s *Metro* thusly: "[It] is supposed to be a monster's hand dropping a bloody heart, but I did it myself with a tattoo kit, so it looks like a cactus." Gosling also has ink of a "ghostly lady" and a skeleton, and the cover of Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*.



PINK INK

Throughout October, which was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, shops across North America gave pink ribbon tattoos and donated proceeds to breast cancer research. One shop, Horifudo Tattoo Studio in Smithtown, NY, even designated a day when they let customers getting pink ribbon tattoos pay whatever they were inclined and donated all of the proceeds to charity.



GOSLING, ASSOCIATED PRESS/AP IMAGES; PINK INK, SUSAN HENNESSEY

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HOLIDAY CHEERS

Get into the spirits of the season.

Every year you look at the folks on your holiday shopping list, and every year you wander around Brookstone looking at Waterpiks, solar-powered machine guns, and elbow massagers, trying to picture someone needing such things. Also this time of year: You get so turned around with shopping and Christmas sweaters that you forget Rebecca and Andrew's holiday party starts in a half hour and you have nothing to bring but leftover Chinese takeout. Luckily, the good people at liquor companies put out gift packs for such occasions.

Who likes booze? Almost everybody you know. Who uses glassware? Everybody you know. There's never been such a thing as an overstocked bar. Nobody has ever unwrapped a present and, with a harrumph, said, "Oh, good bourbon again." Dad has enough ties; your uncle doesn't need more GoldToe socks; your best friend isn't holding out on buying new boxers because he's anticipating you'll stock the top drawer of his dresser.

Unlike a tire pressure gauge, the gift of alcohol can instantly be enjoyed by all in the throng. Instead of running up the tab on your Walmart card, go to your liquor store, load up on gifts earmarked for people on your list and possible parties you'll be invited to, then treat yourself to a few while you're at it. Here's to gift packs—the solution to all your seasonal problems. —*Robert McCormick*

COCKTAIL CONVERSATION

A chat with Brooklyn bartender Norah Gurley.

How do your customers react to your tattoos?
It all depends on what type of person they are. I have encountered some people who always ask if I'm going to regret it when I get older. My response to that is: "We only have one life, and I plan on living mine to the fullest." And there was one guy who told me once that I'd be a lot more attractive without them. That guy can shove it! Others love them and think the amount of color work I have is great.

Where do you get tattooed?
For the last two years I have been working with my friend Corey Scoolidge on my arms, and he works at Explicit Tattoo in Suffern, NY. We just started working on an entire sleeve of owls!

What's your favorite tattoo?
Probably the hinges I have in my ditches. I'm also a massage therapist, so I'm a nerd when it comes to anatomy. The elbow is a hinge joint and I thought it was an amazing idea.

What's your favorite drink to drink?
Call me a lush, but lately I've been on a gin kick and have been knocking back the Last Word. It's equal parts gin, green Chartreuse, Luxardo Maraschino, and lime juice. Believe me, it's called the Last Word for a reason!



CROWN ROYAL
This Canadian whisky has a luxurious caramel taste–and because of its purple pouch you don't have to fuss with wrapping paper. You can even personalize a bottle or pouch for a dear friend or drinking buddy through crownroyal.com.



CAMUS XO ELEGANCE
Baby, it's cold outside–and few things warm one up better than a nice sip of Camus XO Elegance. It isn't as harsh as many top-shelf cognacs, its soft notes echo the holidays–licorice and candied fruits–and it's much more enjoyable than fruitcake.



MAKER'S MARK
Whiskey sealed in wax means delicious Maker's Mark is in the bottle. For the drinker with good taste and an appreciation of craftsmanship comes the Maker's Mark holiday pack, which comes with glasswear dipped in their iconic red wax.

MAKEUP, ERIN SHIMKIN

photo by DANIEL EDWARD



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Clockwise from top left: *Fight Klub II*, *Bloody Knuckles*, *The Inland Empire Smokes Back*, *Last Rites*.





BOMBSHELLS AWAY!

Brian Viveros paints smoking hot girls.

As a kid growing up in southern California, Brian Viveros learned to draw anatomy from his father, a bodybuilder and amateur artist. In grade school Viveros, now 35, concentrated his efforts on comic book and fantasy art—then, after graduating high school and having no formal training or art education, he decided it was time to find a niche.

"I wanted a part of me in my art—sort of like a signature," Viveros remembers. "I've always smoked a lot—I know, a bad habit—so it seemed natural to paint smoking girls." Viveros is referring to his collection of chain-smoking femme fatales laden with repetitive iconography like red roses, bloody bandages, tattoos, and antique war helmets. Most of his work is dubbed "fetish" and "erotica" and is created using mixed media on maple board.

In 1997, Viveros's art career took off with his participation in Switzerland's "The Art of Porn" exhibition, where he exhibited alongside his mentor, Swiss surrealist H.R. Giger. Over the past 14 years, Viveros's work has been shown extensively in North America and Europe. His recent work (*Evillasting Love*, *Unclean*, *The Inland Empire Smokes Back*) just commanded a sold-out show at Paul Booth's Last Rites Gallery in New York City.

Influenced by the strength of his mom and wife, Viveros paints his heroines as powerful women who have just returned from battle. "I like to capture the moment of triumph and the moment of relief," he explains of the portraits. "I like the idea of decorating their bodies with ink as though they're wearing medals."

Viveros's own ink includes the cover art of his first comic book tattooed on his leg at 19, and his artwork has made it onto others' bodies (Nikko Hurtado tattooed one of Viveros's paintings on a client in a episode of *LA Ink*). "I love it when people come to my art shows dressed up as one of my heroines and show off the tattoos they've gotten of my work. It give my shows great energy." —*Kara Pound*

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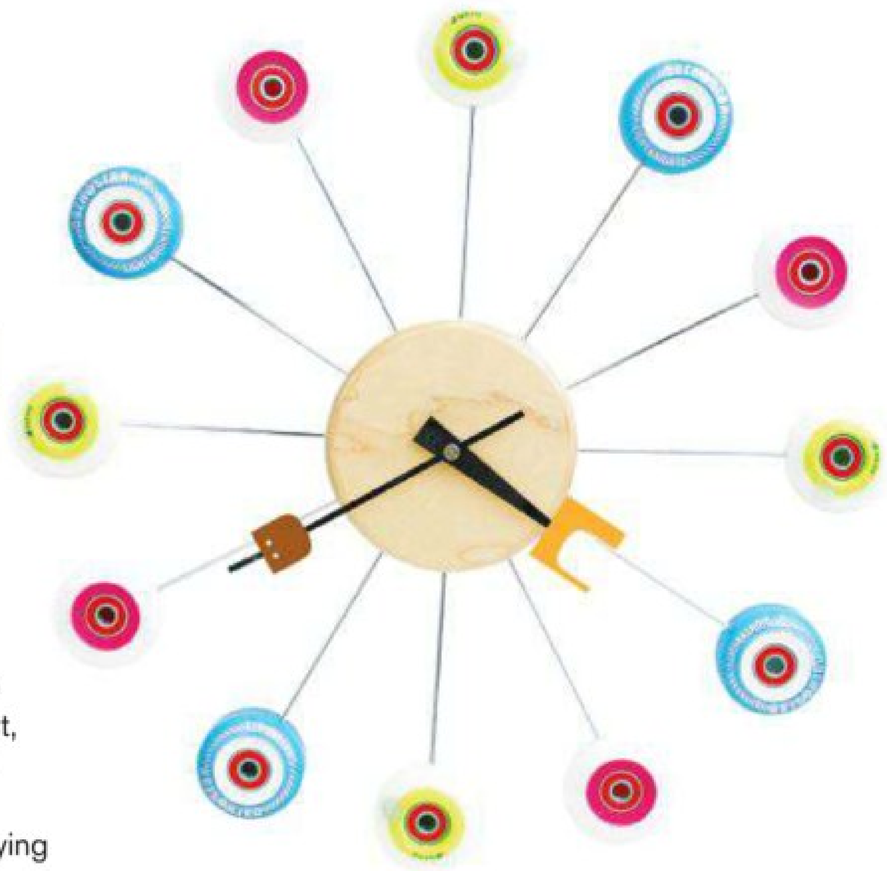
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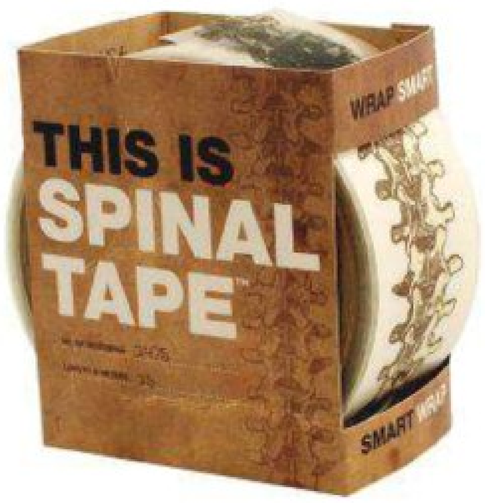
INNER BEAUTY

Send a swab of yourself to DNA 11 with the company-provided collection kit, and they'll churn out a unique piece of wall art ($199, dna11.com) based on a small portion of your sequence.



ROUND THE CLOCK

This quirky and futuristic Skate Study House Astro Clock (price upon request, skatestudyhouse.com) is made from polyurethane skateboard wheels of varying colors around your choice of a maple center or one fashioned from a branded deck.

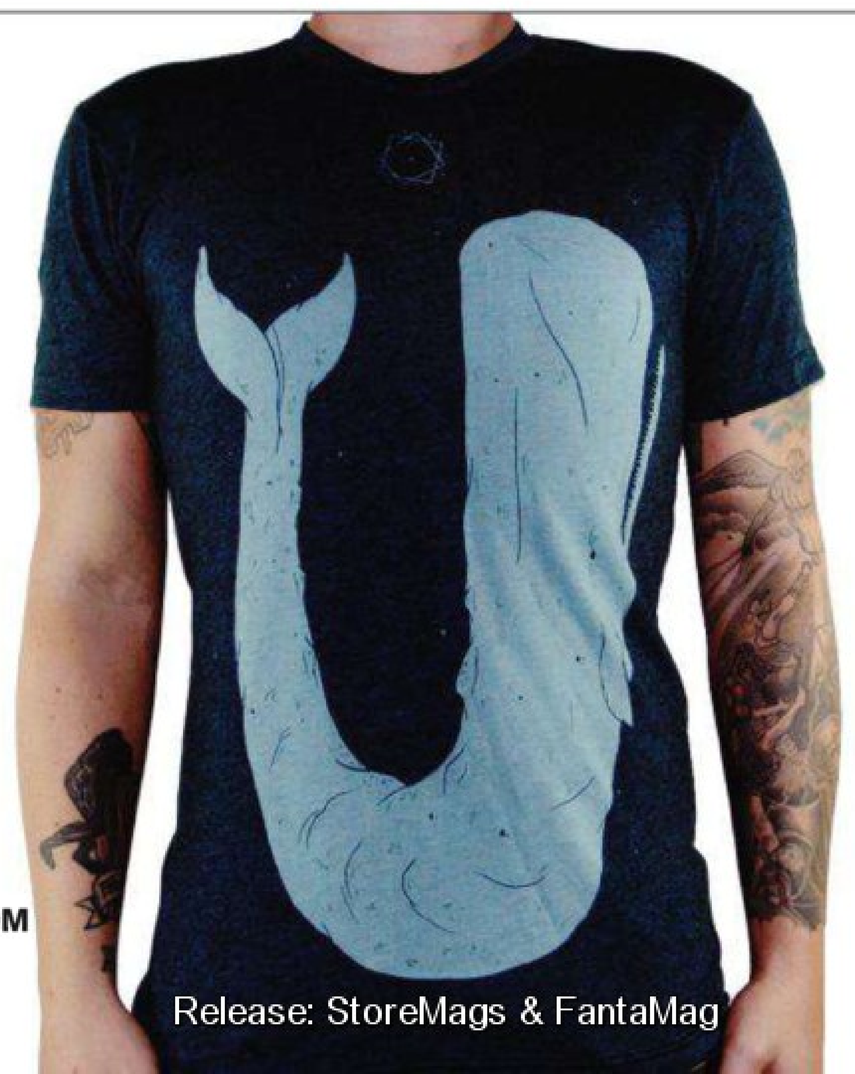


TAPE IT UP TO 11

Does it work? We have no idea. Does it look great when keeping your stuff together? Not really. But This Is Spinal Tape ($8, copernicustoys.com) is one hell of a pun.

BY THE BOOK

Rather than slapping logos on T-shirts, Miles to Go emblazons its clothing with clever visual touches inspired by great literary works, such as this Moby Dick T-shirt ($25, miles togoclothing.com).





TEMPORARY FIX

Normally we are adamantly against temporary tattoos (except on those 18 or younger), but Tattly puts out some featuring art from leading fine artists—such as this design from illustrator and painter Julia Rothman ($5 for two, tatt.ly)—and that forces us to make an exception.

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CHESS WITH A BULLET



This Olde World Collectibles and Creations Bullet Chess Set ($295 and up, oldeworldcollectibles.com) pits .223 caliber brass shell casings against steel casings on a battlefield of hot-rolled steel. Not personalized enough for you? Send your own shells to the company and they'll fashion them into a similar set.



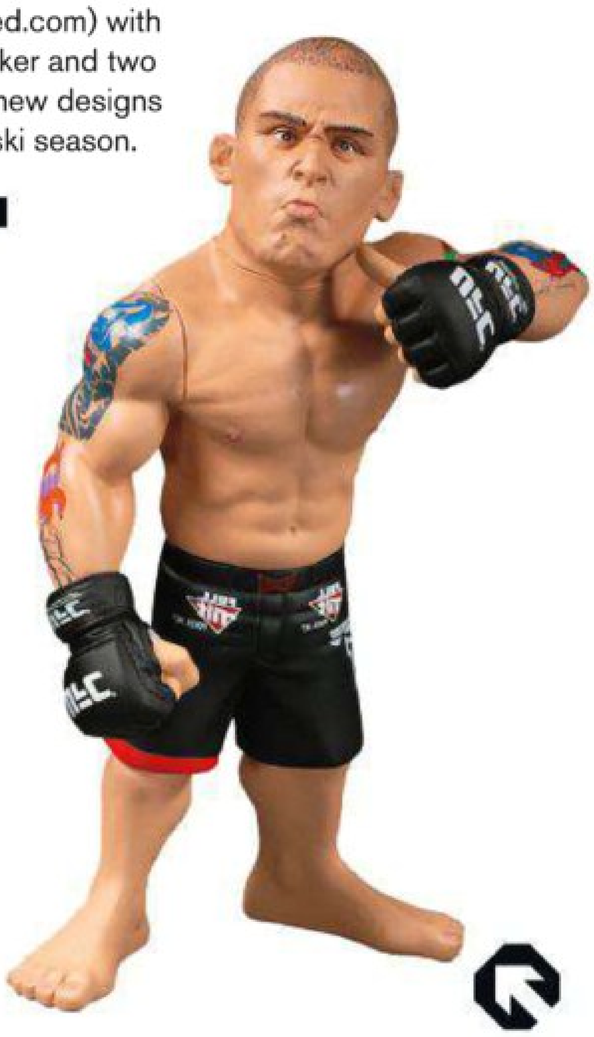
WHERE'S THE BEEF GOING?

Two common fears—the dark and aliens—play against each other in the cow-snatching Alien Abduction Lamp ($85, abductionlamp.com).



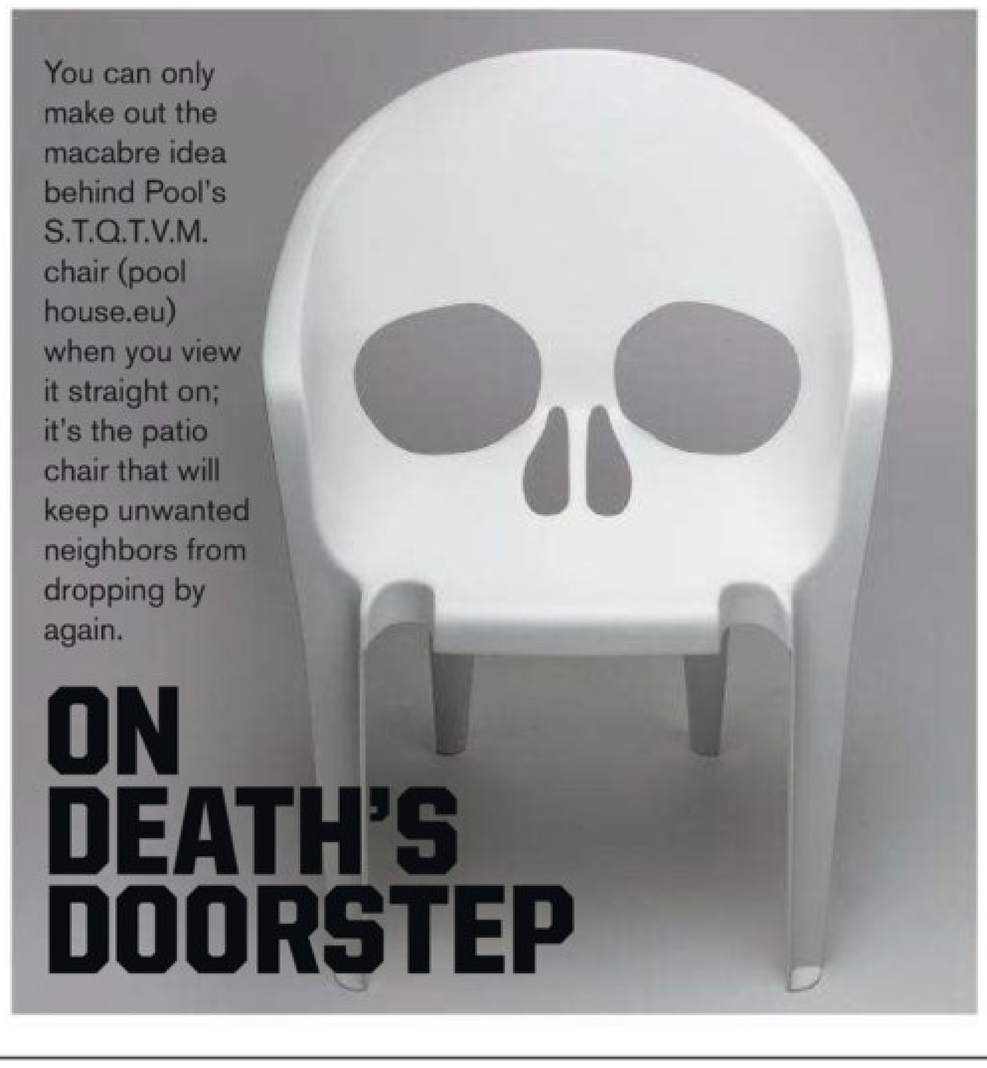
KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

Volkl updated its Mantra All Mountain skis ($699, untracked.com) with a tip rocker and two bitchin' new designs for this ski season.



ULTIMATE FIGURINE

Round 5 makes UFC figures accurate down to their cauliflower ears. Take for instance this Thiago Silva replica ($10, amazon.com): even his tattoos are accurate (and if Silva gets more work done before Round 5 puts out the next line, they'll update his ink).



INK ON THE STREET

Subject: Bobby Hicks

Spotted: Gramercy, New York City

Where he gets inked: "Twelve 28 Tattoo in Brooklyn is where Ashley Love did my *matryoshka* [Russian nesting doll] tattoo on my forearm. I've always had an unhealthy obsession with Russian culture and literature, so this tattoo probably has more meaning to me than most of my others."

What he's wearing: Alpha Industries jacket.

Brand backstory: Alpha Industries began as a military outfitter in Knoxville, TN, in 1959. Business boomed during the Vietnam War, when the Defense Department used Alpha for its quality and craftsmanship, most notably to make flight and field jackets. Because of the superior look and durability of Alpha Industries garments, many of the jackets made their way to Army and Navy surplus stores and into civilian circulation. Noticing the demand, Alpha Industries decided to get into the retail game with military-grade, military-inspired jackets, shirts, pants, jeans, and even footwear.

What else he's wearing: Levi's jeans, American Apparel shirt, RYZ shoes.



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MOVIES

HEY HO LET'S GO ... TO GYMBOREE



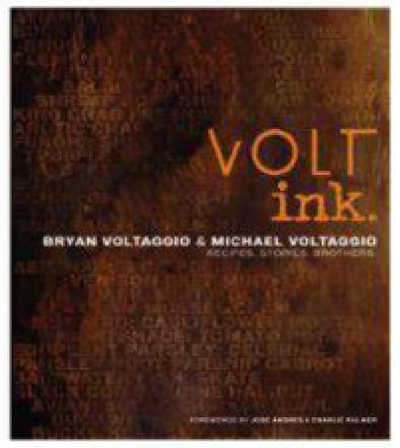


By its very nature, punk rock is defiant, nihilistic, and pissed-off. The music is fast and loud and conjures up images of broken bottles, grimy basements, and screaming piles of snarling youth. Anyone who has ever found himself momentarily caught up in the chorus of a driving "fuck it all" anthem knows the feeling of living just for today. But for those who have ridden the wave of punk past their teen years and into their 20s, 30s, and beyond, the question inevitably arises: What now?

The documentary *The Other F Word* trails punk's elite into fatherhood as they take on the responsibility of being anti-authority authority figures. Spliced with archival footage and backed by an all-too-appropriate soundtrack, the film mainly follows Pennywise's Jim Lindberg as he balances life on the road with his role as a father of three. "When you're in a band, it extends your adolescence through the rest of your life," says Lindberg.

Joining Pennywise are Fat Mike (NOFX), Lars Frederiksen (Rancid), and Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers/Fear), to name just a few. The documentary questions what it is to be a father, a responsible adult, and a defiant youth at the same time—and it gives a little hope to those of us for whom the Ward Cleaver route is not an option. —*Nick Fierro*

BOOK



KITCHEN INK

Pioneer chefs Bryan and Michael Voltaggio are brothers in blood and in (inked) arms. In their new book, *Volt Ink.*, they demonstrate their methods and techniques for cooking dishes such a twist on the classic roast beef sandwich that calls for beef tongue accompanied by a mustard ice cream and a frozen version of gazpacho. "I became the coolest person in the world when I figured out how to use liquid nitrogen to make Dippin' Dots for my wife," Bryan reflects. *Volt Ink.* is a jump-start for the American palate, and an invitation to embrace adventure and indulge in the finer side of the home-cooked meal. —*N.F.*

MOVIES



SHERLOCK HOLMES: GAME OF SHADOWS

In this sequel, Sherlock Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) faces his toughest foe yet: Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris), an intellectual equal to our favorite detective, not to mention an emotionless criminal mastermind. When the Crown Prince of Austria is found dead, Holmes realizes his apparent suicide is a murder that's part of a larger scheme designed by Professor Moriarty. It is, of course, up to Holmes and Dr. Watson (Jude Law) to stop him. Give it a week in the multiplexes to see if the buzz for this flick is as good as the first. —*Gilbert Macias*



UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING

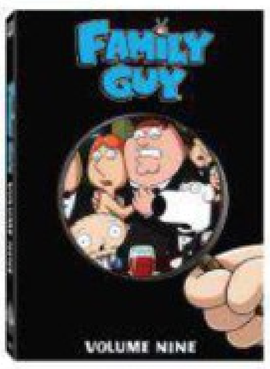
Kate Beckinsale makes a welcome return in this fourth entry of the *Underworld* series. This time our favorite Lycra-wearing vampire, Selene, escapes imprisonment and finds herself in a world where vampires and Lycans no longer live in secret, and humans are conducting an all-out war to exterminate both immortal species. It's up to Selene to mediate the situation, and she finds herself in the crossfire of all three races. Her character has always been a neutral, loose cannon, so it'll be interesting to see where her loyalties lie. —*G.M.*



THE SITTER

Jonah Hill (*Superbad, Moneyball*) stars in this hilarious comedy that looks like an R-rated *Adventures in Babysitting*. Hill plays Noah, a college student on suspension with a lot of time on his hands. His mom talks him into getting a job and he soon finds himself exploring the exciting world of babysitting with the three kids next door. Then a phone call from (who else?) a girl persuades him to leave the house and take the kids with him, and that, of course, leads to a wild road trip from Hades. —*G.M.*

DVD



FAMILY GUY, VOL. 9

Giggity, giggity. Our favorite dysfunctional animated family is back with a three-disc DVD collection. The set features 13 episodes the way they should be seen: uncensored. Peter, Lois, Brian, Stewie, Chris, and Meg Griffin continue their usual hijinks along with other fan favorite characters like Quagmire, Joe, and Mayor Adam West. Special features include commentaries, deleted scenes, *The Comical Adventures of Family Guy*, *Brian & Stewie: The Lost Phone Call*, and *The History of The World—According to Family Guy*. —*G.M.*

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VIDEO GAMES



ASSASSIN'S CREED: REVELATIONS
PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, PC
The latest chapter of the shadow war with the Templars takes master assassin Ezio to Constantinople, the politically unstable capital of the Ottoman Empire. Ezio is entering his elder years, but don't let the gray beard fool you. He still buries blades in enemy backs with the best of them, flies across rooftops in a flash thanks to the new hook-blade gadget, and uses his new bomb-building ability to get his point across. By uncovering new secrets underneath the ancient city, players unlock new missions that take place during the Crusades, and get to play as Altair, the original assassin who put this franchise on the map. Although these two badasses sheath their blades for good after Revelations, you can build your own shadow agent and take to the bloodied streets of the new story-oriented multiplayer matches. Play If You Like: Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood, *Alamut*, *Kingdom of Heaven* —*Matt Bertz*



CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE 3
PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, WII, NINTENDO DS
The biggest game on the planet returns to wrap up the trilogy with explosive set pieces and nonstop firefights. With Washington, D.C. still smoldering from the surprise Russian invasion, Task Force 141 goes on a globe-trotting mission to restore the sovereignty of the United States. Once you tie up the loose ends with a few thousand well-placed bullets, head online to test your mettle against waves of gun-toting baddies in the new survival co-op mode or take up arms against the millions of gamers addicted to Modern Warfare's frenetic multiplayer mode. Revamped player progression and a tweaked kill-streak system that lets you pick your reward for battle prowess in the middle of a match should keep your adrenaline flowing well into the new year. Play If You Like: Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2, dudebro-on-dudebro violence —*M.B.*



THE ELDER SCROLLS V: SKYRIM
PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, PC
Are you afraid of commitment? Then stay away from Skyrim. This gargantuan sandbox role-playing game sinks its teeth into you with hundreds of hours' worth of dragon battles, world exploration, and engrossing side missions. As foretold in The Elder Scrolls, you are civilization's only hope against Alduin, the fearsome Nordic god of destruction who is reborn as a dragon. To steel yourself for the inevitable clash, you must hone your fighting and spell-casting skills by taking on quests and learning the powerful "dragon shout" special abilities. With a gorgeous new game engine, refined combat, and an impressive AI system that makes the animated world feel like a living, breathing world, this is the one RPG to rule them all. Play If You Like: *A Game of Thrones*, *Reign of Fire* —*M.B.*



THE Inked PLAYLIST

BY JONAH BAYER

COHEED AND CAMBRIA
"Deranged"
The prog-punk act contributed this to the *Batman: Arkham City* soundtrack.

CAITHLIN DE MARRAIS
"Birds"
The former frontwoman of Rainer Maria transcends her emo roots and manages to give the world smarter, innovative music in the process.

DEAD TO ME
"The World Has Gone Mad"
Only Dead to Me can take a scathing social commentary and manage to make it work in the context of an upbeat, pop-punk song.

FOXY SHAZAM
"I Like It"
Foxy Shazam channels the grandeur of Led Zeppelin without losing sight of their own quirky musical identity.

THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM
"State of Love and Trust"
On their latest iTunes Session, Jersey's finest rockers totally reimagine and reinvigorate this Pearl Jam classic.

MISFITS
"Twilight of the Dead"
The Misfits may not have Glenn Danzig anymore but they've got bassist Jerry Only pulling double duty on vocals—and they still want your skull.

RUSSIAN CIRCLES
"Mladek"
This song features an ambient math-rock introduction—and then impending chaos kicks in just when you least expect it.

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SCENTS AND SENSIBILITY

Don't be caught under the mistletoe before spraying on one of these fragrances.

"Hey, man, you smell nice," is something a guy will never say to another guy, and that's why we've enlisted the help of past Inked Girls to help with the finer points of cologne. "It's easy to put on too much. I think one or two sprays is fine. I don't want to smell you from across the room, nor should your cologne compete with my perfume," says Inked Girl April 2011 Jesse Lee Denning. "It should whisper to me to come closer."

Just a spritz on your neck and your wrist will suffice. "Definitely not the groin," says Inked Girl August 2011 Ginger Andersen. "If a guy did that I would expect him to ask me to put dollar bills in his undies. What are you, a stripper?"

Inked Girl May 2011 Rio Lund prefers sweet and peppery scents like Jean Paul Gaultier Le Male, which she sometimes uses on herself. Inked Girl November 2011 Alysha Nett is drawn more to sporty scents. Denning's favorite is anything with sandalwood. "I love when it lingers on my skin after being together all night," she says.

"When I was missing someone who was out of town for a while I slept with his shirt," Andersen recalls. "The heart grasps what it can, including reminders like scents."

Bottom line: The right fragrance is important to a woman. "There is nothing sexier than a good-smelling man," Nett sighs. —*Rocky Rakovic*



JOHN VARVATOS STAR USA
Rock star designer John Varvatos updated his fragrance ($70, elizabetharden.com) to be evermore youthful and rebellious. It has notes of ginger and juniper and a swing-top cap.



ALL AMERICAN STETSON
For years the scent of Stetson has indicated that you are a man's man, and recently they put out a cologne for the modern American man's man ($26, stetsoncologne.com).



ROCAWEAR EVOLUTION
The next step in Jay-Z's line is an olfactory extravagance that projects warmth and swagger. Evolution ($67, macys.com) hits on the aromas of mango, rhubarb, coffee, nutmeg, and rum.



DIESEL: ONLY THE BRAVE CAPTAIN AMERICA
Diesel and Captain America combined powers to produce a bold bottle that holds a scent balancing coriander, lemon, black rose, and ebony wood ($68, macys.com).

STYLING, BETHANY WOLOSKY; MAKEUP, GRISELLE ROSARIO; MAKEUP ASSISTANT, STEPHANIE SEMEXANT; HAIR, DAVID COLVIN, JR.; MANICURE, KELLY BABER; MODEL, ALICIA DOLESE; TOPSHOP BUSTIER

Into the mist!

photo by JUSTIN HYTE

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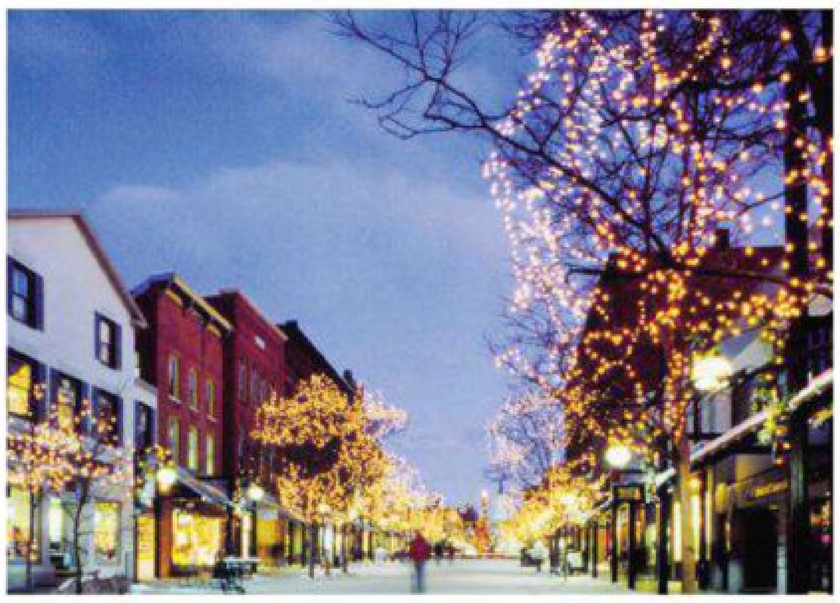
BURLINGTON, VT

Vermont may have been hit hard by a hurricane this past summer, but the people are resilient—and the mountains are the best on the East Coast.



The East Coast mecca of winter sports is also a bustling hub of art, music, and food. It's also home to Yankee Tattoo (198 Pearl St.), opened in 1996 by father-son team Bill and Eric Henshaw. The staff's versatility and style have long been the gold standard in the area. Here, Eric shares how to ditch the touristy L.L. Bean scene and get a peek inside the spots where locals chill. *—Zac Clark*

BEST SHOPPING You can find everything from kettle corn vendors to pubs and wine bars at Church Street Marketplace (2 Church St.). This open-air market is completely car-free, giving an old-world feel to the modern mall dynamic. Street performers mix with hipsters and locals at this unique block of shops. "Bundle up, take a stroll, and you'll experience the heart of Burlington," Eric says.





THE BLACK DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH Just outside of Burlington lays the town of Stowe. "They have all your ski and snowboarding needs with a taste of old-time tourist stores and art studios," Eric says. With art festivals, live entertainment, and shops, it's the hidden gem of the area that the locals (normally) keep under their hats. Stowe boasts some of the best restaurants in the area with prices and waits a fraction of those in downtown Burlington.

SWEETEST SPOT A half hour outside Burlington lies the Ben and Jerry's Waterbury Factory (1281 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury, VT). Even in the dead of winter it's hard to say no to Chunky Monkey or Cherry Garcia. If you bring some friends, try the Scoop Shop's Vermonster, a huge bucket of ice cream with tons of toppings, "because everyone loves ice cream!" Eric notes.



GOOD MUSIC Featuring live music acts, DJs, touring artists, and a full bar, Higher Ground (1214 Williston Rd.) is Burlington's best music venue. "You can catch a great show in a small venue here," says Eric. The venue is so intimate that chances are you can bend an elbow with the band after the show, but there's still plenty of room to dance or rock out.

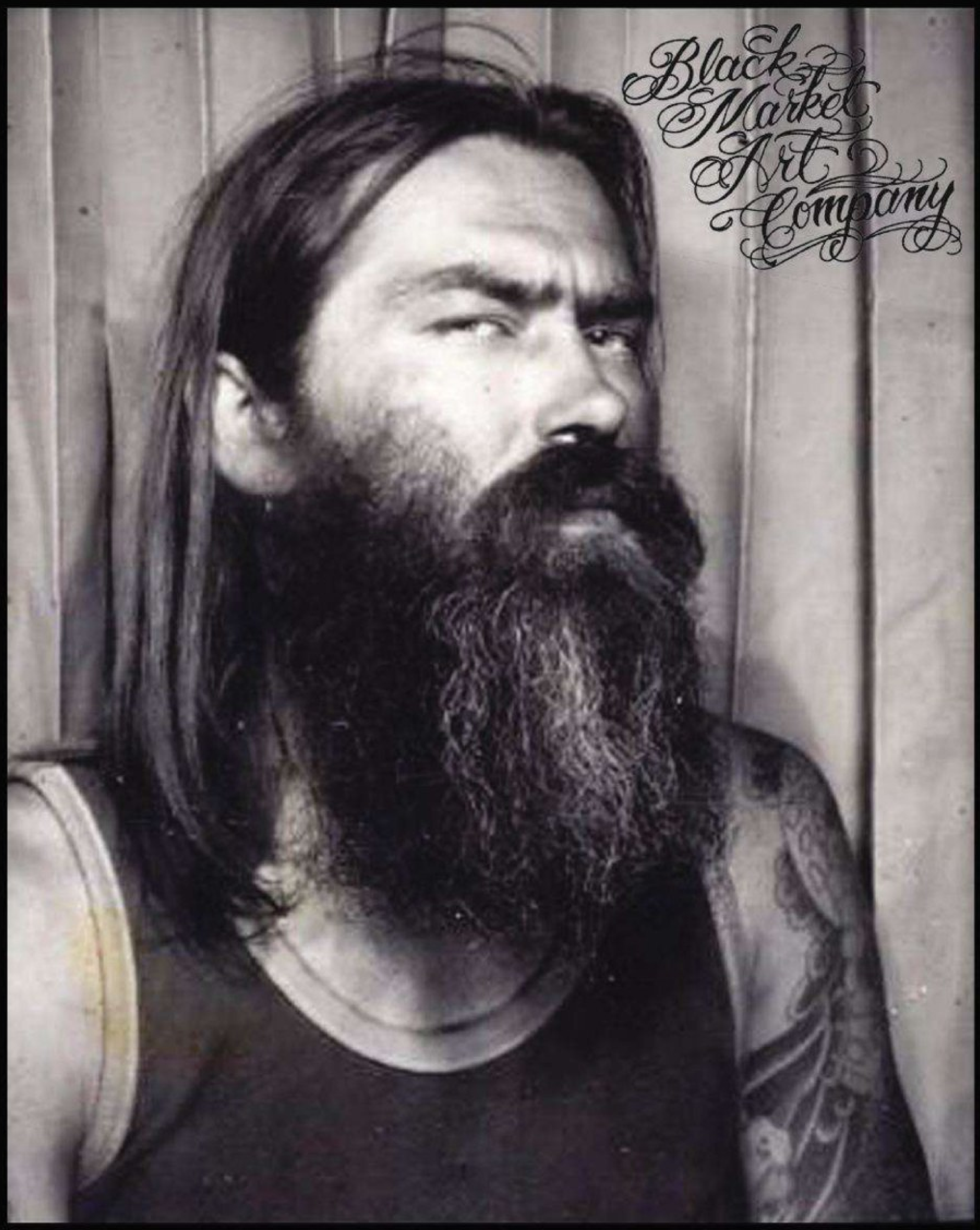




BEST LOCAL MUSIC "Radio Bean [8 North Winooski Ave.] is the hub of the local art scene, with good coffee, great food, and electric music to boot," says Eric. Every night they offer live music, strong coffee, and stiff drinks. One favorite is the Shake: a mix of espresso and dark beer. There's food, too, so come hungry, thirsty, and ready to take in Burlington's local rock scene.

WELCOME TO VERMONT SIGN, BEN AND JERRY'S PINT, BOTH, ISTOCKPHOTO; HIGHER GROUND, RICK LEVINSON

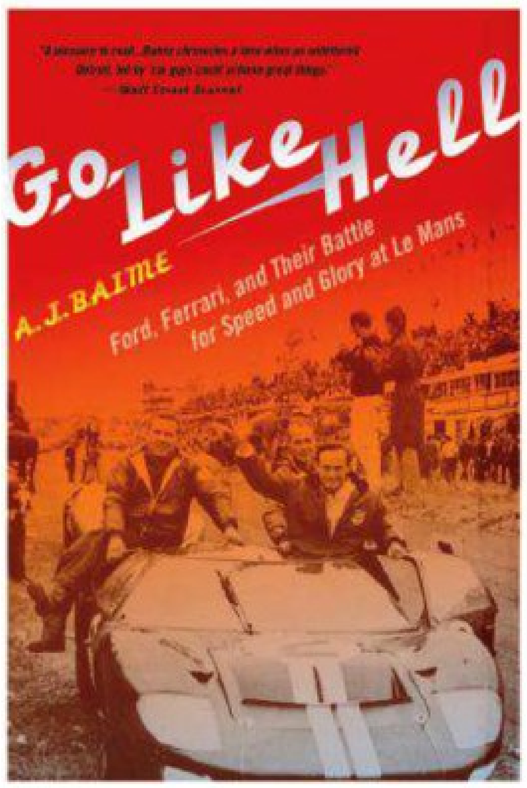
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AUTO MALL

If there are car nuts on your holiday shopping list, they have visions of these items dancing in their heads.

FLYING A GASOLINE PORCELAIN SIGN Automotive enthusiasts have been out of their minds for Gasoline Alley-esque signs for their dens and garages. This reproduction sign ($19, 50sretrosigns.com) from the defunct Flying A Gasoline company harkens back to the day when service had a personal touch. Now that daily human interaction comes only when the petulant Starbucks barista barks your order. This is a memorial to the time when an attendant would pump your gas and squeegee your windshield with a smile. 50sretrosigns.com also has old-school offerings from motor oil brands such as Mohawk, Sinclair, and Bomber.

PUMA DUCATI 65CC LO SHOES The issue with most driving shoes is that they look European—fey, even. But these puppies ($90, puma.com) from Puma and Ducati (yes, Euro companies) have the look of a skate shoe and the feel of a tennis sneaker. The leather kicks bear the brand names of both the collaborators and a tire-tread rubber sole so you won't look out of place when you step out of your car and walk around in public.

GO LIKE HELL A.J. Baime's *Go Like Hell* ($15, amazon.com) is the best racing book in, well, probably ever. He uses the 1966 24 Hours of Le Mans race in France as the backdrop for a battle of drivers and their cars—and, more importantly, as a prize-fight between Henry Ford II and Enzo Ferrari. At the time, Ford knew that in order to sell cars he had to do the unthinkable and make an American car that could win the brutal contest, while Ferrari was getting on in years and, through the same race, trying to protect his artistry from being compromised. The book is cinematic enough to attract interest from Hollywood director Michael Mann, who is rumored to be adapting it for the silver screen.

TREAD RINGS These rings (prices vary, brianbergerondesigns.com) by Brian Bergeron are for gearheads with non-garage gigs. He hopes that they can take a piece of their passion into the boardroom, classroom, or tattoo shop. The rings come imprinted with car, mountain bike, and motorcycle tire treads and are available in silver, gold, palladium, and platinum. *—Robert McCormick*

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"IT'S ABOUT ALL FREE MIND, MAN, NOT BEING BOUND BY THE MATRIX. THAT'S WHAT ALL MY TATTOOS MEAN." *–ALVIN "JOEY" LINDSEY, THE KNUX*

From left: Kentrell "Krispy" Lindsey and Alvin "Joey" Lindsey.

PHOTO BY MAGDALENA WOSINSKA



From left: Alvin "Joey" Lindsey and Kentrell "Krispy" Lindsey.

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THE KNUX

Old-school rockers often gripe that hip-hop is a bland blend of boisterous beats, empty bravado, and melodies cribbed from other people's albums. But there is one group they can appreciate: The Knux, who deftly blur the lines between rap and rock, with a little six-string sting to go with the bling and singing to balance their rapping, as evidenced on their sophomore album, *Eraser*. It all seems natural given that their disparate influences include The Rolling Stones, Nas, Wu-Tang, The Stooges, The Clash, Nirvana, Jimi Hendrix, and Juvenile.

The duo—brothers Kentrell "Krispy" Lindsey (vocals and programming) and Alvin "Joey" Lindsey (vocals and guitars)—originally hail from the Big Easy but got displaced by Katrina to La-La Land, where they fell for the climate and have thrived ever since, bucking trends and making and playing music they love.

Some feel The Knux's first album had a lo-fi rock vibe à la The White Stripes and The Strokes, but the ghost of Romeo Void rears its head on the new album's track "She's So Up." "On this album we went New Wavy," says Joey.

"We've always been fans of the post-punk stuff," adds Krispy. "It was super open. Sonically I've always liked those Def Leppard mixes from the '80s, all those Bob Rock mixes. They were super big. I always thought that if you could match the quality of the post-punk bands with those producers—think about that, man."

With sex, rap, and rock 'n' roll, it's no wonder the siblings chose to do an NSFW video featuring a model for "Run" (featuring Kid Cudi). After all, they know models, so why not show the whirlwind life that one leads accompanied by song? "You think it's cool to be a model?" asks Krispy. "My friend is a model, and she is out all day and night. She had to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning. It's not a glamorous life to be a model unless you're Kate Moss. I just wanted to show it from that point of view—a whole day of craziness. By the end of the day you need coke to stay up."

Unlike the model muse in their video, the brothers have plenty of ink, including matching ladybugs on their right hands. But Joey definitely has more work. "He would hallucinate on drugs and then just go get crazy shit," says Krispy, who is not kidding. "He's been sleeved up for about six or seven years."

Joey's ink represents both freedom and his past. "It's about all free mind, man, not being bound by the matrix," he says. "That's what all my tattoos mean." His ink includes a bald eagle on his neck, an old revolver, Buddha, tribal tattoos, and a cherub. He has a few words of significance, including "Kill Your Idols" on his chest, "We Are The Indigos," and "Free Mind." His oldest tattoo is his name, which he got when he was 15. "My mom saw it and punched me in the arm," he says. It's since been covered up by a samurai cutting the head off of a dragon.

Krispy's left arm mostly represents where he is from, while his right is more about his love, his passion. He's got a Knux tattoo, Felix the Cat, "Le Chic Freak" (his old music label), "Krispy Creme," "Rebel," and an unfinished sacred heart. He's planning to get his back done with a portrait of himself.

Anyone who meets the duo quickly ascertains that Krispy is the dominant brother. He's the elder bro who does the teasing and bullying. He's also a chatterbox. Joey is quieter, piping up only when he has something insightful to say: "A lot of rappers only consider themselves to be rappers and not artists. When you consider yourself an artist you invest in every aspect of your music. You want to be involved in everything. But when you think like a rapper, you're like, Yo, give me something and I'm gonna put some words on top of it. … That's not putting much thought into your creative process." —*Bryan Reesman*

photo by MAGDALENA WOSINSKA

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CLAIRE LUTZ

The urge to see the world has been the fire in the belly of countless folk. The means of transportation may vary, but the destination—anywhere but here—remains the same. Some buy a one-way train ticket while others pack the car and drive until they can't drive anymore. Claire Lutz didn't want to leave in such a mundane manner. She decided to leave town on a kite.

Lutz is a professional kiteboarder, a hybrid of all sorts of different water sports, mostly a combination of wakeboarding and windsurfing. Lutz specializes in wake-style kiteboarding, which involves doing tricks on rails placed in the water. Growing up on the shores of Lake Michigan, she dabbled in most water sports, but when she first saw kiting something went off inside of her. "I decided somehow that that was what I wanted to do, and I was going to go pro. I had never tried anything like it," Lutz recalls. She immediately started saving up to move to North Carolina to take lessons and make her dream a reality.

Now that she has become a pro, Lutz has no regrets about that decision she made years ago. If anything, she loves kiting more now than ever before. Spending anywhere from 30 minutes to four hours in a session, Lutz feels free when she's on the water. "You're pushing yourself to limits you've never done before, never even dreamed of, really," she explains. "Once you learn a new trick it's a feeling of disbelief that you were able to do that."

If you manage to get Lutz out of the water long enough, chances are that you'll find her under the needle of her cousin Dirk Sorrells at The Parlor Tattooing in Saint Joseph, MI. Sorrells has done all of Lutz's work and is currently working on completing her sleeve. Lutz's tattoos started as a tribute to her mother. "My mom passed away when I was eight. One thing I always remember about her is that she had huge rose gardens. I know that roses are cliché but I've always liked them because of that," she says. "Then I started adding things that aren't as important," she adds with a laugh.

So far kiteboarding prowess has been able to take her from Michigan to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, and Maui, among other places. While she loves traveling to new spots, she is fairly confident kiteboarding paradise is Hood River, Oregon. Due to pressure systems and the canyon surrounding the Columbia River, the wind conditions are always perfect for kiteboarding. "It's a really cool town," she says. "It's all young kids. There's a group of guys called The Slider Project and they built all these rails that are in the water all summer long." But don't think that because she has found a perfect spot that Lutz is content to settle down. Whether it's finishing her sleeve or learning new ways to attack a rail, there is still a fire in Lutz's gut; she'll either be going into the wind or riding it any way it blows. —*Charlie Connell*

photo by TAYLOR CASTLE

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JAIME SMITH

As comfortable in a tattoo chair as he is in the head chair at a board meeting, Jaime Smith isn't your typical entrepreneur. He prepares for the risks and losses of every venture he begins, and his entry into the tattoo world was no different. When he got his first tattoo—a spider—at 16, his father told him, "Son, figure out what you want to do with your life, and then tattoo all you want." Smith has done just that, making sure his business suit aligns with his jacket of ink underneath; although he's lost track of how many tattoos he has, he keeps his neck, hands, and knuckles unadorned for the meetings he has with business associates around the globe.

At 32, Smith runs an agricultural and chemical manufacturing company and founded Hub International, a company that developed HandStand, a device that angles the iPad for easier typing and improves functionality by allowing it to spin 360 degrees in your hand. "I was getting surround sound done in my house, which I found out could all be controlled by my iPad. But I got tired of holding it so I decided to design the case," he says of his invention. He's also launching a plethora of products made with carbon fiber, from watches to bullet-proof vests, and helping other young entrepreneurs make their ideas a reality.

Along the way, Smith has made sure he designs and manufactures in the USA because he wants to support the economy as much as it has supported him. "America is run on small businesses," he says. "I find myself knocking boots with Apple, Nike, Verizon, and other big corporations, so the goal is for small businesses to succeed in corporate-run environments."

When he's not working 20-hour days, Smith divides his time between motorcycles and tattoos. He says there was a time when he would travel to different continents and his tattoos would bewilder people—but now when he meets with contacts they want to see his latest additions. And why does he keep adding? "I would look in the mirror and see one arm done, so the other would look weird. Then I'd see my chest done so my torso would look weird." Much of his ink is inspired by his Christian faith. Some of his favorites are the words "Perseverance," written in cursive from his armpit down to his knee, "Misguided Angel," across his stomach, and "Virtue Lies in Blood," across his chest. "I always knew I wanted to be heavily tattooed. When I look at my pictures as a little boy, I don't just have one stick-on tattoo, I have many—everywhere." Although some people have responded negatively to Smith's work, his tattoos have also opened doors to new networks and friends. "People always said it was going to affect me negatively in business. But tattooing has been the most rewarding experience, and when people see them and they see the professionalism, they know I'm unique and serious."

For his next batch of ink, Smith plans to take the leap into getting his neck and hands done, and he also wants to continue developing products and companies that bring not only profits, but value, satisfaction, and change. He says his ink will lead him in that direction: "My tattoos represent that I can live differently, but I can still live great." —*Nadia Kadri*

photo by ANDY BATT



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Coeur de Pirate sings in a romance language.



joie de vivre

BY ROCKY RAKOVIC
PHOTOS BY WARWICK SAINT

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Kymerah dress; Lauren Wimmer ring. Previous page: Only Hearts vintage jumpsuit.

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PIRATE RADIO

Coeur de Pirate's influences include the Rolling Stones and Joni Mitchell. Here's what's currently playing on her iPod:

1. Javanaise Remake–**Serge Gainsbourg**
2. Ballades No. 4–**Frédéric Chopin**
3. Une Histoire de Plage–**Brigitte Bardot**
4. Someone Like You–**Adele**
5. Au 27-100 rue des Partances–**Pierre Lapointe**
6. Pâte Filo–**Malajube**
7. Last Christmas–**Wham!**
8. Safari Disco Club–**Yelle**
9. Watching Lara–**Yann Tiersen**
10. To Build a Home–**The Cinematic Orchestra (featuring Patrick Watson)**

While working on a project called *Songs for Sailors*, Quebecois singer, songwriter, and pianist Béatrice Martin went through a particularly bad breakup that ended with a guy telling her she had no future, that she couldn't do anything. To the contrary, she adopted the persona of Coeur de Pirate (French for *heart of a pirate*) and made waves with her music. The songs are in French, but even if you don't speak the language, that shouldn't hinder your enjoyment of them in the slightest. The atmosphere, the cadence, the soul of Coeur de Pirate's message doesn't get lost in translation. True, she is bilingual and has recorded some songs in English—such as when she and Jay Malinowski of Bedouin Soundclash recorded as Armistice—but French is her mother's tongue (her mom, a classical pianist, also passed down a love of the ivory keys).

"There's a romanticism present in French," Coeur de Pirate says. "There are ways of creating images in French that I can't in English. French works better for me when trying to illustrate with words." For instance, her new album name, *Blonde*, is a takeoff of her hair color and the Quebecois French word *blonde*, meaning *girlfriend*, e.g., "I'm going over to my blonde's house for Boxing Day."

When asked if she thinks singing in French pigeonholes her and limits her audience to those in France and Canada—countries where she does quite well, having been nominated for a Juno award, the Canadian equivalent of a Grammy, and winning best original song at the Victoires de la Musique, France's equivalent of the Grammys—she is at first confused by the term *pigeonhole*. But after a quick explanation, she says, "I think I'm getting attention because I'm singing in French, and I don't want to be thrown in the same group as the other pop music girls who sing on the piano. I've also received messages from fans who say that they started to learn French after translating my lyrics."

Web traffic to Google Translate should spike as *Blonde* permeates iTunes. "My first album was more teenage revenge," she says of *Coeur de Pirate*, which she released in 2008 at the age of 18. "[*Blonde*] is my breakup album."

"After [*Couer de Pirate*] I started becoming a little bit famous—which I'm so grateful for—but I got thrown into a world of adults really quickly. I grew up way too fast, and through people-pleasing I ended up feeling really lonely."

The feeling didn't last long: "Then I met someone who really understood me, and when we broke up it was really painful," she says. That someone was Malinowski. *Blonde* goes through the progression of a relationship, careening from upbeat tracks like "Ava" to the staggering "Adieu." If you have two ears and a heart, you'll devour it. "This album was for me to get through the breakup and understand that I loved more than he did—too much."

Coeur de Pirate's skin bears her joys and scars just as her music does. She has a tattoo on her body for each important person in her life. Her first tattoo, a blue rose on her ribs, was inspired by singer Dallas Green, better known as City and Colour. "Then I moved really quickly and went straight up to chest piece," she says. "I pretty much skipped some important stages of tattooing." She did not, however, skip out on color. "That's a problem," she admits. "If I could do it all over I would do black, to be honest. When you are young and your friends are tattooing you, they say, 'Hey, you have really fair skin—how about we test out all of these colors on you?'" These days, she gets what she wants from Arno, an artist at Imago Tattoo Studio in Montreal, who does amazing traditional work, including her deer and bunny.

So now she's a young, porcelain-skinned blonde with a cute upturned nose and eyes bigger than Canadian quarters—who also has two chest pieces and the makings of two tattooed sleeves. Of her look she says, "It's all about contrast—and my music is like that too."

PAGE 41, ILLUSTRATION © CSA IMAGES

"There's a romanticism present in French.
French works better for me
when trying to illustrate with words."

La Fée Verte bra; Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti pants; Milk & Honey shoes; Lauren Wimmer bracelet.

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Moschino Jeans swimsuit; Julianna Rae boy shorts; United Nude shoes; Tuleste Market necklace.

BATHTUB GIN

Of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world, we walked into this one ... to photograph Coeur de Pirate. And the walk wasn't easy. Bathtub Gin is a new speakeasy in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood that's hidden behind the cornflower-blue walls of Stone Street Coffee House at 132 9th Avenue. Once you pass the hiss of the espresso machine, you find the wall paneling to the far right (facing the street), feel for a notch under the horizontal piece of wood bisecting the panel, and pull. If that doesn't work, knock three times and tell 'em INKED sent ya. You'll then gain entrance to a room of lush lighting and libations. There may be a copper bathtub in the middle of the space, but the gins are made by Hendrick's and Plymouth. Speak easy and order a big drink.

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Kymerah blazer; Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti pants; Lauren Wimmer ring and necklace.

Stylist: Young-Ah Kim
Stylist assistants: Edward Agir and Liana Vasserot
Hair: Antonio Diaz at Bryan Bantry
Makeup: Hector Simancas at Factory Downtown
Location: Bathtub Gin, NYC

CLASH OF THE TATTOOERS

IN HD!

WHO IS THE INK MASTER?

-JUDGES-



PECK



NAVARRO



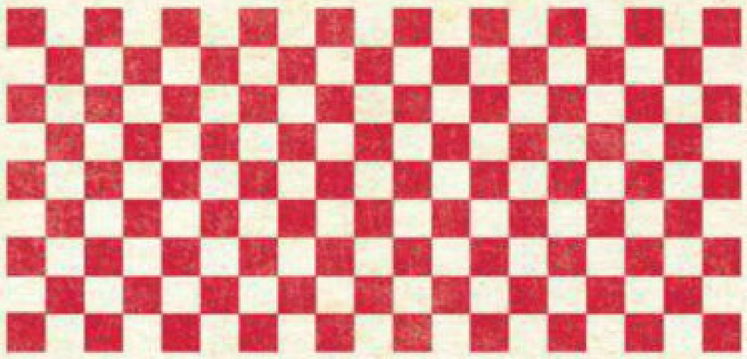
NUNEZ

The stakes have never been higher for tattoo artists or reality TV—this time it's permanent!

THE ULTIMATE TATTOO COMPETITION

BY ROCKY RAKOVIC ★ PHOTOS BY DUSTIN COHEN

PECK x NAVARRO x NUNEZ

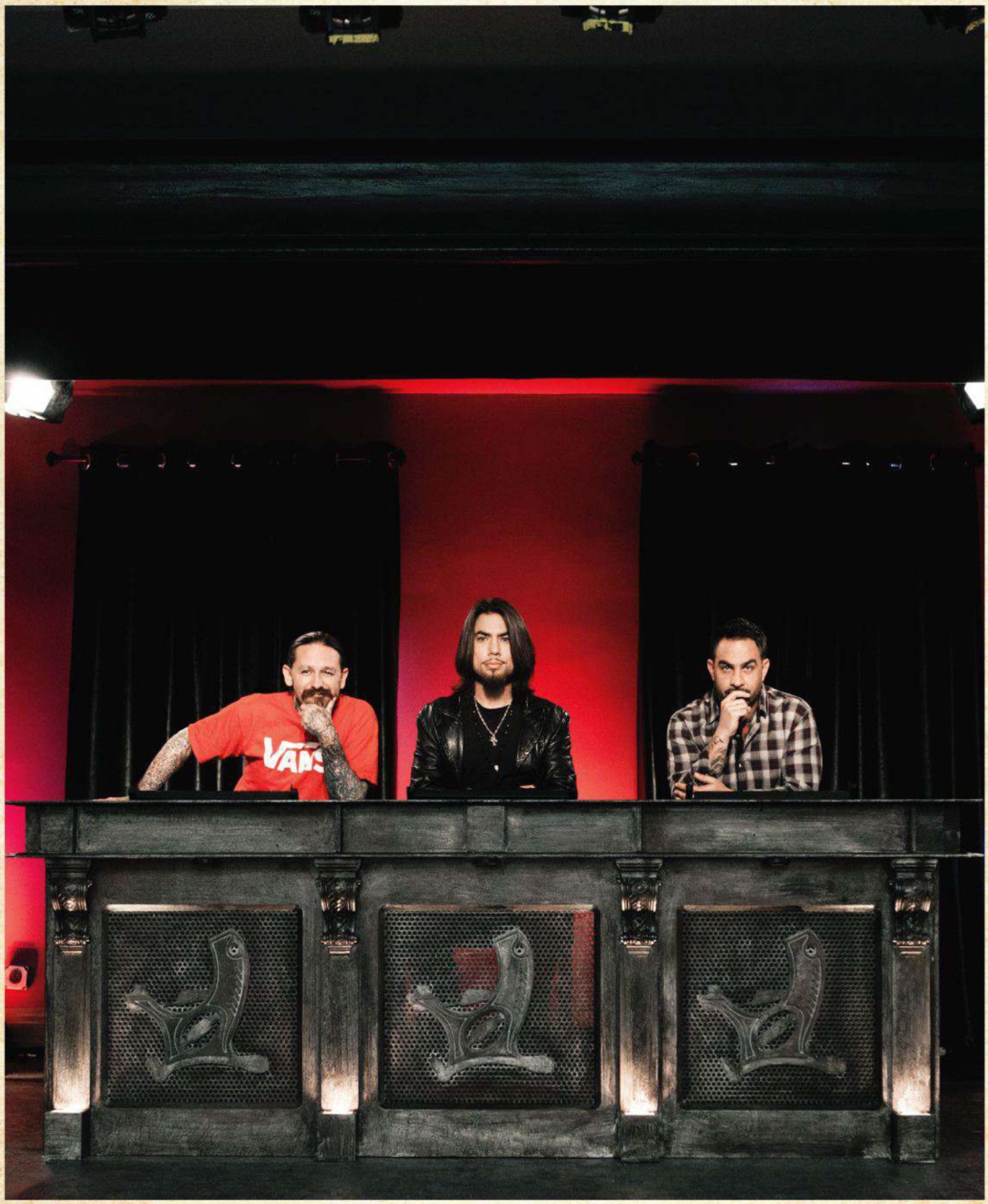


☞ WATCH AS THE TATTOOERS NEEDLE ONE ANOTHER AND GET UNDER EACH OTHER'S SKIN

PAGE 48

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BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: AL FLICTION, SHANE O'NEILL, TOMMY HELM, BRIAN "B-TAT" ROBINSON, JOSH WOODS, BILI VEGAS, JEREMY MILLER, JAMES VAUGHN. FRONT ROW: HEATHER SINN, CHRIS NUNEZ, DAVE NAVARRO, OLIVER PECK, LEA VENDETTA.

FINALLY. AFTER YEARS OF *PROJECT RUNWAY, AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL,* *Top Chef*, and *Top Valet Parker*, Spike TV has given tattoo artists their due with *Ink Master*, a worthy new addition to the genre of reality competition shows. And that makes perfect sense, since you can judge a finished tattoo through the TV screen much better than you can judge a turbot fillet from *Hell's Kitchen*. Speaking of judges, Spike has brought on Jane's Addiction rocker Dave Navarro, venerable tattooers Chris Nunez and Oliver Peck, and a rotation of guests (including INKED's creative director) to award one of its 10 competing artists $100,000, a feature in this magazine, and the title of Ink Master.

Nunez is a charismatic pioneer of tattooing on TV, having starred in *Miami Ink* as co-owner of Love Hate Tattoo Studio with Ami James. He started out in the graffiti scene and then traveled the world, picking up artistic influences that had yet to inform most American tattoo artists before getting into the tattoo game.

Oliver Peck is eight feet of tattooer stuffed into a five-foot-and-change frame. He's got the hottest machine in Texas, which he wields from Elm Street Tattoo, and he recently expanded to Los Angeles, taking over True Tattoo in Hollywood. In the TMZ world he is also known as Kat Von D's ex-husband and has been described as "what a cartoon villain looks like." (We happen to envy that mustache.)

"In general, I don't really watch television, but I saw a cooking competition show once and I couldn't believe it," Peck says. "Why do people watch that? Who cares? You made a soufflé and it went flat and now you're crying. Big fucking deal. In *Ink Master* it's not like you messed up some dessert and someone can't eat it—you're making tattoos. A lot is on the line for the people getting tattoos and the tattoo artists who want to elevate their profile."

And the pool of contestants hoping to do just that are a mixed bunch, with varying levels of talent and experience: Al Fliction (BKLYN Ink); Tommy Helm (Empire State Tattoo Studio); Jeremy Miller (Screamin' Ink); Shane O'Neill (Shane O'Neill Tattoos); Brian "B-Tat" Robinson (Moving Ink); Heather Sinn (Avalon Tattoo); James Vaughn (Straight A Tattoo); Bili Vegas (Sacred Tattoo); Lea Vendetta (A Stroke of Genius Tattoos); and Josh Woods (Black 13 Tattoo Parlor). "It's a pretty spread field," Peck says. "I have to be totally candid, which could make me come off as an asshole. But my job is to make sure that the good tattooers come out on top."

"I criticize, but I'm not there to hurt anybody's feelings or say anything that isn't true," Nunez says of his role on the show. "If you put yourself in the position to compete, then you have to be able to take the criticism. It's not like somebody woke them up and said, 'Hey, we're going to watch you create beautiful art and praise you all day.' We may sit up higher than the contestants, but Oliver and I are still tattooers just like they are."

Peck says he was nervous about his first encounter with Navarro ("Because you know what they say about meeting your heroes!"), but when they shook hands before taping they immediately hit it off and have since become buds. They even went so far as to tattoo each other in the greenroom. Nunez was a little skeptical when he heard Navarro was part of the panel, but the rocker quickly earned his respect, and Nunez says he feels the guitarist will bring a different and vital outlook on tattoos to the dais.

The competition, which airs 10 p.m. Wednesdays on Spike TV beginning January 18, will be rigorous. Viewers of *Top Chef* and *Project Runway* are probably familiar with the format: Contestants live and tattoo together under the watchful eye of the judges, in the shadow of New York City skyscrapers. To house the action, Spike rented a church that

"IF YOU ARE A GOOD ARTIST YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CREATE ART IN ANY ENVIRONMENT."
–CHRIS NUNEZ



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"IN *INK MASTER* IT'S NOT LIKE YOU MESSED UP SOME DESSERT AND SOMEONE CAN'T EAT IT—YOU'RE MAKING TATTOOS. A LOT IS ON THE LINE."—*OLIVER PECK*

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time forgot and transformed the sleeping quarters of the clergy into pristine tattoo booths replete with old-school barber chairs and slick modern-day artwork. In the beginning of each episode the contestants will be given a quick creative task, a Flash Challenge, which gives the winner a leg up for the Elimination Challenge. At the end of each episode, the loser is asked to pack their needles.

The flaws some in tattoo-land have already pointed out are that good tattoos can't be created in a small amount of time. And what happens when, say, an artist adept at Japanese-style work finds himself up for elimination because of a not-so-perfect old-school tattoo? "Some of the contestants will be suited to certain challenges and some won't be, but in the end good tattoo skills will always win out," Nunez says. "The truth is that you can't do an intricate body piece in the allotted time, so tattooers should know that and work the size or complexity of the piece into their time constraints."

Fact is: You need to be able to serve more than one client a day and keep appointments by working under deadlines if you want to have a successful shop and be able to feed your family as a tattoo artist. "I know how hard it is to tattoo with cameras surrounding you," says Nunez. "I hope the field will figure out how to work under that pressure and progress as the season goes on. Truthfully, if you are a good artist you should be able to create art in any environment."

In addition to the obvious constraints on the artists, there are other difficulties with the nature of the competition that make it a difficult one to judge. Sure, there are tattoo competitions at conventions every weekend, but the judges of those are charged with picking a *winner*, not a loser. "I came in with the mind-set that we have to pick the best tattoos," Peck says. "But we have to pick who's the worst. It's a hard gig to be that guy who says you were the worst. They are all working tattooers, and we are saying to them, 'Hey, out of all these people you suck. Here's your fucking bag of shit. Go home. … Basically the best tattoo only means that the contestant is safe."

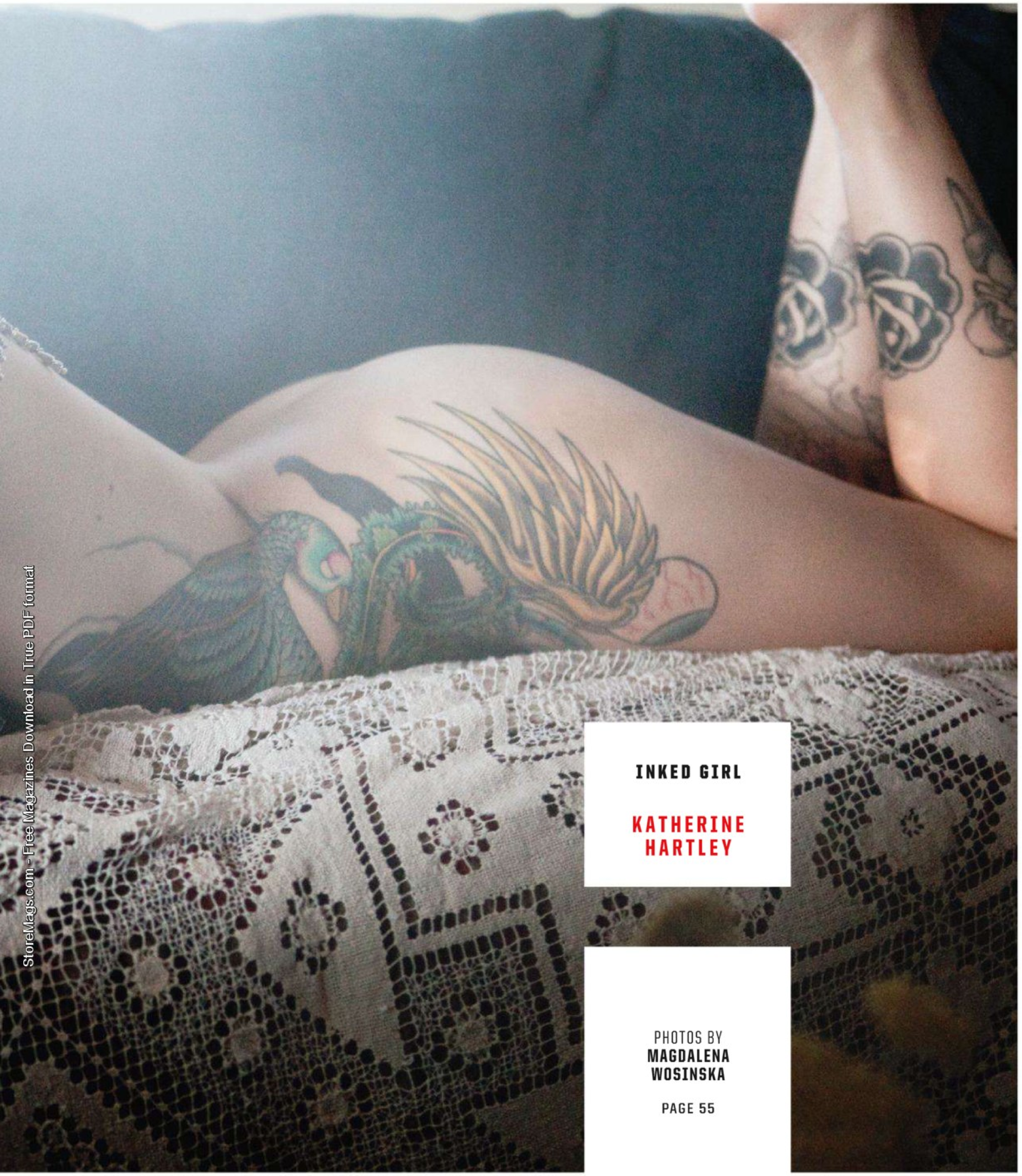
"It's going to be tough to eliminate somebody, considering that their livelihood is tattooing," Nunez says. But the winner is going to be the artist who keeps his or her eyes on the prize. "Don't forget that these tattooers are competing for a hundred grand. There are tattooers all over the country who don't make $100,000 a year."

Stakes are indeed high. They are high for the contestants and high for the industry, as the eyes of the country will be, in essence, judging the claim that tattooing is an art. Until now, tattooing has only been a backdrop to shop drama and clients' stories, but *Ink Master* will put the focus on the craft and its process, rewarding those with stellar work, not just those with stellar looks or sparkling personality. "A lot of complaints with tattoo shows are that they are not about tattooing anymore," Nunez says. "Hopefully this is going to highlight the appreciation of tattoo art."

GROOMING, JILL OSHRY USING MOROCCANOIL

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INKED GIRL

KATHERINE HARTLEY

PHOTOS BY
MAGDALENA WOSINSKA

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Katherine Hartley is lightning in a tattooed bottle—so much so that Monster Energy Drink picked her to add some electricity to their concert circuit as an effervescent Monster Music Ambassador. Her love for music began when she started playing the piano at 6 and continued through high school, where she was immersed in the punk and hardcore scenes. At 18 she adopted a nomadic lifestyle, moving from Utah to Arizona to San Diego, stopping long enough to collect a few tattoos along the way. "Art and music are my passions," she says. "I love my job and love all the places it takes me. I could never work a desk job. I've always been a free bird!"

This free spirit inks homages to the people who have shaped her life. She's dedicated her Japanese-style sleeve to her half brother. And many of her other tattoos—including 20 hearts distributed across her body, "True Love" on her lower stomach, and even names of old boyfriends—are reflections of where she's been and who was there with her. "I always feel like I'm getting a tattoo at a life marker," Hartley says.

Hartley recently moved back to her family's home in Los Angeles, but her love for the road runs deep. "I have the legendary pinstriper Von Dutch's 'Flying Eye' on my hip," she says. "I'm a huge hot rod and rat rod fan. I'm starting a Rat Fink piece on my back; [his creator] Ed 'Big Daddy' Roth is such a legend!" Her largest piece by far is an expansive phoenix on her left side that was originally a painting by Fella, her go-to tattoo artist at Absolute in San Diego. "My jaw hit the floor when I saw it. I had just turned 25 and was starting to really find out who I was and get self-confidence. I feel like the phoenix was my rebirth tattoo."

The newest addition to Hartley's amalgam of ink is an image of Tank Girl by artist Alex Ruiz. "I effing love her! Her character is fun and inspiring, a modern-day heroine—an independent woman with an attitude. I feel that's where I'm at in life: I'm single, and not looking, and off to take over the world." —*Cristina Guarino*

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Frederick's of Hollywood teddy; vintage bra and feathered jacket; stylist's own thigh-highs. Pages 54–55: Vintage beaded top. Pages 56–57: Frederick's of Hollywood leopard-print top; model's own bra and underwear. Opposite: Vintage slip. **Stylist:** Rosana Diaz; **Hair:** Terri Walker; **Makeup:** Kerrie Urban at Next Models.

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WINTRY MIX
Clockwise from top: Vans Bridger jacket, yeahboardshop.com; Dr. Martens Macbeth tartan scarf, dmusastore.com; Analog Alder mitts, burton.com; DC Woodland boot, dcshoes.com; Anon Comrade goggles, burton.com; Stetson Stevens hat, stetson.com; Sabre Free Rider goggles, activerideshop.com.
Prop stylist: Anna Holmes Hurley

APRÈS SNOWBOARD

The only other things you'll need this winter are lift tickets.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KRAUS

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STASH AND CARRY
Clockwise from top: Filson wool duffel bag, filson.com; Jack Spade boot pack, jackspade.com; Timo Weiland backpack, available at Pas de Deux, 212-475-0075; J. Fold Courier messenger bag, jfold.com; Stash herringbone messenger bag, stash-bags.com.

Q+A

RONNIE ORTIZ-MAGRO

As *Jersey Shore* goes back to the Shore, we sit with the guido who has the best tattoos—and rarely covers them with a shirt.

BY ROCKY RAKOVIC PHOTOS BY KAREEM BLACK

Jersey Shore debuted two years ago with eight self-proclaimed guidos and guidettes who spent their days in tanning booths, gyms, and Laundromats and their nights dancing to house music, drinking, and "smushing" (having sex or, as newish cast member Deena Nicole Cortese says, "doing sex"). At first, audiences laughed—but then something happened. The kids at the Shore kept living their lives like there were no cameras on them, but the country changed. People began to aspire to Shore living; they started tanning, doing dance moves like the Jersey Turnpike (to those not in the know, stay there), and wearing their hair in poufs or blowing it out. This past Halloween, chain stores were even selling costumes of Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino and Paul "DJ Pauly D" DelVecchio, and a pouf wig based on the hairstyle made famous by Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi.

Throughout the show's run, Ronnie Ortiz-Magro has served as the apex of masculine form both in build and ink. The spotlight has shined on his jarring on-again-off-again relationship with Sammi "Sweetheart" Giancola as well as his winning, boyish cackle during the show's most elated moments (and who can forget him biting down on a piece of clothing when getting tattooed?).

These days, Ortiz-Magro is in a good place, back at the Shore and infectiously laughing his way to the bank thanks to club appearances, his clothing line, Jersey Laundry (with shirts bearing his catchphrases like "Come at me, bro!"), and his spot on the fifth season, which takes place in New Jersey's Seaside Heights. Although he wouldn't give us the recipe for Ron-Ron Juice—he's working on bottling it—he did offer insight on what happens behind the scenes of *Jersey Shore*.

INKED: What's a guido?
RONNIE ORTIZ-MAGRO: It is the way you carry yourself, the way you dress, the way you look—tan and in shape—and your confidence. It's a way of life.

What do you say to the Italian-American groups who railed against the show, saying that you made them look bad? First off, I don't represent anybody. My job is to have fun and get drunk. I'm not looking to be a mayor or a senator; I'm not going down that road. And *guido* doesn't mean you are Italian. Anybody can be a guido. I'm Puerto Rican and Italian; four other people on the show aren't full Italian. And to clarify, Vinny [Guadagnino], who is Italian, isn't a guido because of that—and he doesn't even have the look. But he's confident, so that's why he's a guido.

With waxed eyebrows and all of the grooming products, you guys sometimes look prettier than the girls. Well, we are neater, that's for sure. I watch the episodes and I see the mess in Sammi, Deena, and Snooki's room and I think, Wow.

Your "G.T.L." mantra of going to the gym, going tanning, and doing laundry on a regular basis... I tan twice a week. I'm half Puerto Rican, so I stay tanner then most. I was doing the spray tan for a bit but they don't make one darker than my skin [tone], so I was coming out the same color, only stickier.

And the frequency of Laundromat visits? One, clothes are part of looking good, and two, it gets us out of the house. We consider ourselves highly paid inmates.

How so? For the six weeks we film we are on lockdown. No computer, no TV, no cell phones, not even an iPod in the gym. When we got done with this season I'd missed all of *Entourage* and *True Blood*, and I didn't know what was going on with the Yankees.

That said, you've made a pretty mint life just by letting your life play out on TV and making some club appearances. Before, my family would go to Florida and California. Now I'm going everywhere, even North Dakota. Believe it or not there's stuff to do in Fargo! *[He picks up the November issue of INKED with Amber Rose on the cover.]* When the show first came out, I was in Los Angeles at Playhouse and this girl came up to me and said, "Can you take a picture with me?" And I was like, "Yeah." And she said, "Me and my boyfriend watch your show!" Then I walk away and my boy says, "You know who that is? That's Kanye West's girlfriend, Amber Rose." So I ran back over and asked, "Can I get a picture with *you*?"

What was life like before stardom? Before this I had a regular job just like everybody else. I worked as a real estate broker with my father and grandfather in the Bronx and went to the Shore on the weekend. My father used to bring me to Seaside [Heights] when I was a little kid to go on the rides, and then when I turned 21 I started going

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to Belmar [NJ], which has the best-looking girls. I'd work all week to spend my money there on the weekend. *[Laughs.]* I used to spend a lot of money on girls who didn't sleep with me.

Do you brace for a call from your parents after each episode airs to yell at you about some of the stuff that goes down? Nah. At times I have a feeling they may have behaved worse.

Your relationship with Sammi has certainly been affected by TV. It is weird because our relationship has been public for so long that when we aren't on television people want to know what's going on with us.

Yes! So how are you and Sammi? Me and Sammi are not together. We were together up until the last couple of weeks [of season 5] but we have been really busy. She's been busy. We like each other, we care about each other—it's just that now's not the right time. We decided that we should focus on our careers.

Do you think watching how you and Sammi interact is helpful to others who might be in the same situation? Well, you can learn what *not* to be like. That's what we can help you with!

Are you partial to guidettes? I don't discriminate. I actually don't like guido girls, to be honest with you. I like all kinds of ethnicities. I like mixtures. Like, I've met a girl who was Asian and Colombian and one who was Portuguese and Swedish. They are interesting to me. With guidettes, I already know their culture.

The guidettes on the show—or at least Snooki—say that they love guido gorilla juiceheads. Do you juice? Do you do steroids? Those guys who do that give guidos a bad name. Looking good is really about dieting and working out.

Do you have a regimen? You see that I have my shirt off a lot during the show, so a few weeks before we are taping I start cutting things out of my diet, like carbs and cheese.

Whoa, whoa, whoa—a Guido who doesn't eat pasta or pizza? After Italy, I'd be happy not to see pizza or pasta ever again.

Maybe your mesmerizing dance style helps keep you in shape? I learned dancing from my friend Joe. I used to call him Gumby Ankles because of how he moves. Now they just call me Crazy Legs. I have been going to clubs since

"Throughout *Jersey Shore* I had my intervals when I was single, but I sort of feel like a hot girl now. I feel like I have the vagina—I have the control now."

When a season of your show is airing, are you already working on the next season? Last year we were in the house (filming Season 3) as we were watching the Miami season, and that's why it was so intense, because Sam was seeing stuff I did. So it was like, Fuck me! I couldn't even run.

Dare we ask if you have any relationship advice? If you are going to be in a relationship make sure that you are living your life. Include your [significant] other in your life, but don't revolve your life around theirs.

It seemed like you and Sammi were at your strongest in the past season when she made an effort to hang out with the other girls and not cling to you. That's what brought us closer in Italy because she was living her own life. She had the girls and I had the guys. If you watch back on all four seasons we base our lives around each other. If I spend 24 hours around anybody, we are going to fight. But if we spend 10 hours a day together that's probably better.

Well, no offense to Sammi or any other girl you may date, but you're more entertaining when you're "single Ronnie." Throughout *Jersey Shore* I've had my intervals when I was single, but I sort of feel like a hot girl now. I feel like I have the vagina—I have the control now.

teen nights when I was 15, and I always listened to house music like DJ Tiësto and [David] Guetta. When we are not filming I live at Pacha; it's the only club I go to [in New York City].

MTV films you at Club Karma. We hadn't heard about that place until the show. I hadn't either. When they started sending us to Karma there were 30 people in the club—and that's including the cast, crew, and Karma staff.

What's your tattoo philosophy? Tattoos should only be on your body if they mean something. Your body is sacred and you shouldn't treat it as just a fun canvas because you don't have an eraser. … All of my tattoos are religious. All my friends have religious tattoos. We went to Catholic school all our life and religion is really important to me. That cross on my back has Jesus in it. Everybody has Jesus on the cross but I wanted Jesus *in* the cross.

The piece on your arm is great. That's the angels and demon that Mario Barth did. I wanted to get it in Miami instead of the praying hands, but I knew it was going to take three sessions and I didn't want to waste all that filming time—I'd probably still be crying on camera. The angels and demon symbolizes that we fight good and evil every day.

Would you ever get tattoos with the other guys on the show? No. I don't want to have a tattoo that anybody else has.

What do you think about other tattoos on the *Shore*? How about Pauly D's? They all mean something to Pauly, like with the Italian flag; he is the ultimate guido so that is definitely him. I didn't know any of the people on the cast before the show and when I walked in and saw Pauly I was like, Wow, I didn't even know they made you guys! He also has a tattoo on his arm for his friend who passed away.

And the Cadillac on his ribs? He's had Cadillacs forever. He probably had a Tonka Cadillac when he was born.

Snooki also got some work done recently. Yeah, she got a rose at the Hard Rock in Las Vegas that the guy did a pretty good job on.

Does the Situation have any? Mike doesn't have a tattoo, except for the one on his head from when he ran into a wall.

You're talking about Italy, when he tried to scare you out of fighting him by attempting to put his head through drywall. He hit a stud and put himself on a stretcher. What did you think of that? It was awesome.

You could take him, right? Ahh. *[Laughs and nods his head.]* We'll leave it at that.

It seems like he tries to create drama to monopolize camera time. Mike likes to start trouble; he likes to stir the pot. And as you saw in Italy, everyone starts to realize it. I realized it the first season and everyone thought I was crazy, but now they have caught on. And that's why it looks like everybody is turning on him. It's not that we are turning on him, it's that we are fed up. We are all trying to be a family and he is messing things up, which is not going to work for us. It hurts the dynamic of the house.

You've had your scraps on the show too. I had never gotten into a confrontation before [*Jersey Shore*]. In the first season I didn't know what I was doing with the cameras on me. But the thing with Mike and the wall was different.

How are things with Mike now? We patched things up. Guys are different than girls. We fight, get it out of the way, and then go get a beer. With the girls on the show, you see that they dragged it on from Miami to Jersey. But we guys scrap and then go get a beer. That's pretty much the *Jersey Shore*.

GROOMING, STACI CHILD AT DE FACTO FOR REDKEN/CUTLER

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LEVY'S ABOUT TO BREAK

MEET THE WINNER OF OUR SAILOR JERRY CALENDAR CONTEST: LEVY TRAN.

Photography by Michael Dwornik
Stylist: Mark Holmes with See Management
Hair: Staci Child at De Facto for Redken/Cutler
Makeup: Hector Simancas at Factory Downtown
Maison Close lingerie; Topshop jewelry

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Levy Tran is a regular girl—a girl you'd see in a grocery store, at the mall, or at the gym. She's the girl next door. But when she gets in front of a camera, something fantastical happens.

Around the same time we were casting women—Levy among them—to be featured in the Sailor Jerry calendar, The Chive, a popular men's blog, received a black-and-white picture of a cute (anonymous) tattooed girl, and requests poured in with people asking who she was. A reader quickly identified Levy, and The Chive ran more photos, noting that the images "torched up the internet." Not long after, she and photographer John Agcaoili uploaded a short video of Levy messing around and dressing up, called simply "Bored." In 15 days it had more than 33,000 views. Neither of those affirmations went to Levy's head.

"I heard about the INKED Sailor Jerry calendar but I never thought that I would be in it," Levy gushes. "Then my manager at work suggested I go out for it and I figured it would be pretty cool but that I wouldn't win. But here I am. I can't believe it!"

Even more unbelievable is that Levy works as an embalmer (we said she was a regular girl, but we never said she was run-of-the-mill). "When I tell people that they mostly freak out. But I think the job is fascinating and rewarding," she says. "Funerals are important to people, and I like getting hugs from the family for their appreciation of my work on their tough day." Unrelated to her job, Levy swears, her favorite tattoo is her zombie piece. *—Anja Cadlek*

BOULEVARD OF BROKEN DREAMS

You don't need a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame to rule the Sunset Strip.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
NICHOLAS ROUTZEN

STYLED BY
DJUNA BEL

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Odyn Vovk shirt; WeSC jeans; Spinelli Kilcollin Jewelry necklace and model's own dog tags (worn throughout); vintage Harley Davidson jacket available at What Comes Around Goes Around.

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On Steven, General Idea shorts; Raquel Allegra tank top; Dr. Martens boots. On Abby, Elkin leather shorts; vintage T-shirt, available at What Comes Around Goes Around; vintage boots available at Painted Bird LA.

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On Steven, Odyn Vovk jeans and shirt. On Abby, Obesity and Speed shirt and shorts; Biltwell helmet.

Opposite: On Steven, Odyn Vovk jeans; vintage denim vest; Dr. Martens shoes. On Abby, Judi Rosen shorts; vintage T-shirt and booties.

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On Steven, Deth Killers jeans. On Abby, Elkin shorts; vintage shirt, available at What Comes Around Goes Around.

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On Steven, Kaos tank top; Deth Killers jeans. On Abby, Nicholas K flannel shirt; South Leather shorts.

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On Steven, Odyn Vovk jeans; vintage cutout vest. On Abby, South Leather leggings; UNIF shirt.

Photo representation: Traction Artist Management
Stylist representation: Giant Artists
Hair: Staci Child at De Facto for Redken/Cutler
Makeup: Sandy Ganzer at Giant Artists
Models: Abby Brothers at Vision Los Angeles and Steven Asbury
Special thanks to Adolfo for his killer car


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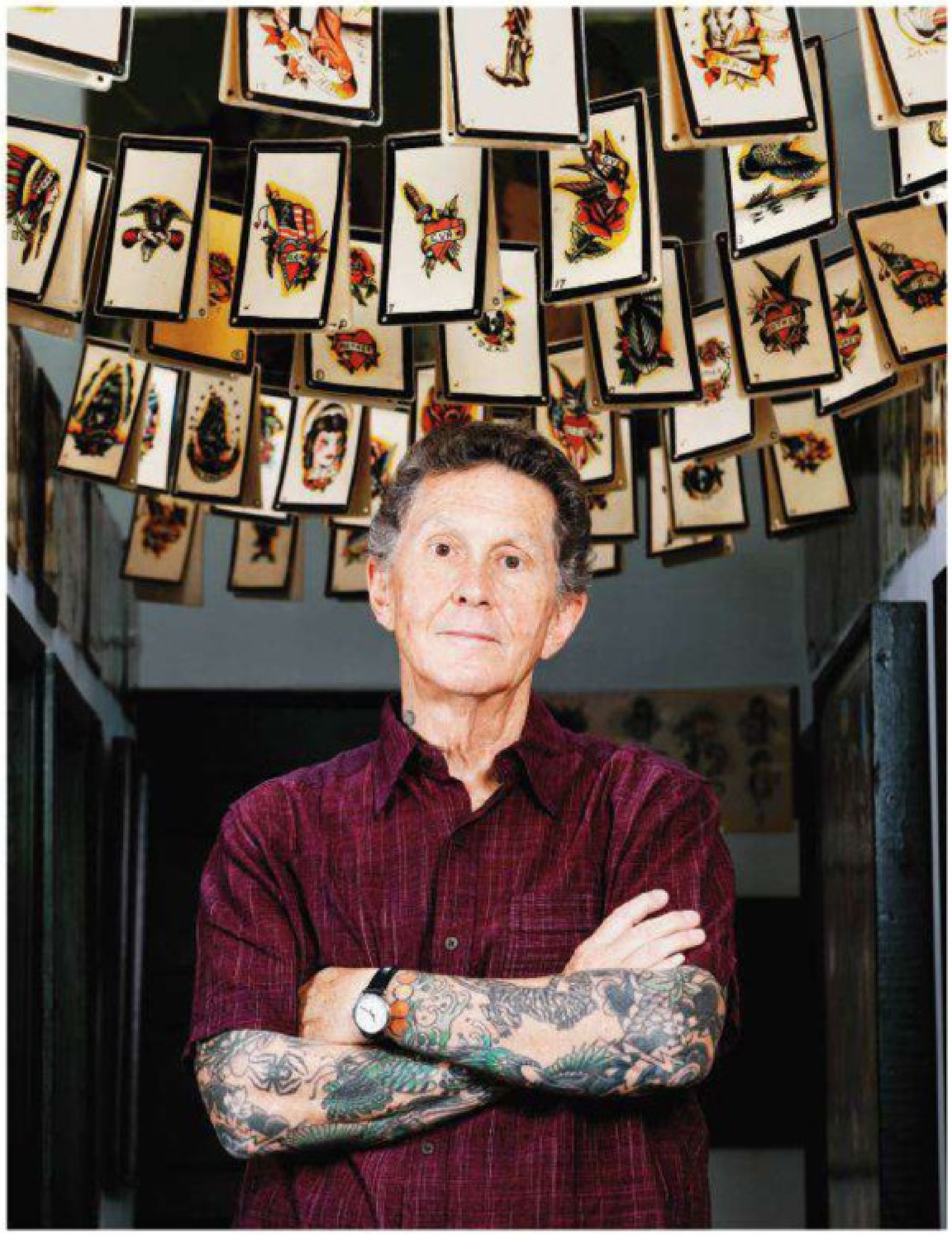


"MY WHOLE DEAL, GETTING INTO TATTOOING IN A NUTSHELL, WAS TO DO SOMETHING REALLY DIFFERENT WITH IT, OFFER PEOPLE SOMETHING THAT WAS WAY BEYOND THE STANDARD RECIPE ON THE WALLS OF SHOPS. IT WAS ALL PRETTY MUCH ONE FLAVOR WITH SOME VARIANTS, BUT MORE OR LESS FOLK ART." *–DON ED HARDY*

PHOTO BY CODY PICKENS

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DON ED HARDY

ED HARDY'S TATTOO CITY
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BY MARISA KAKOULAS
PORTRAITS BY CODY PICKENS

Don Ed Hardy changed modern American tattooing. He inspired fellow artists and tattoo collectors to move beyond the tattoo "menu" on shop walls and pursue custom, personalized art. Taking the lessons he learned from greats like Sailor Jerry Collins and Horihide of Japan, he created richly colored and intricate large-scale work that fused the aesthetics of Asian tattooing with traditional Americana. This powerful imagery thrilled fashion marketing mogul Christian Audigier, who put the Hardy name on everything from trucker hats to condoms. After 40 years of tattooing, the California native was able to retire with a sizable nest egg and fully return to painting, ceramics, and other mediums. Of course, Hardy remains connected to tattooing, largely through his Tattoo City studio in San Francisco, his publishing outfit, Hardy Marks Publications, and the occasional tattoo souvenir for a lucky fan.

INKED: When we noted online that we'd be interviewing you, Bowery Stan Moskowitz wrote to say "Only Ed knows Ed." That makes a good starting point, particularly in light of the new DVD release of *Ed Hardy: Tattoo The World*. Does the documentary's director, Emiko Omori, know you too?
ED HARDY: Emiko Omori was really interested in telling a story that would extend the "Oh yeah, Ed Hardy the tattoo artist" thing, because I have a whole lot of facets to my life, which is probably what Stanley was saying [when he wrote], "Only Ed knows Ed." He's a kick in the pants. *[Laughs.]* I was in art way before I started tattooing, and she wanted to show the whole allover story, and I was up for that.

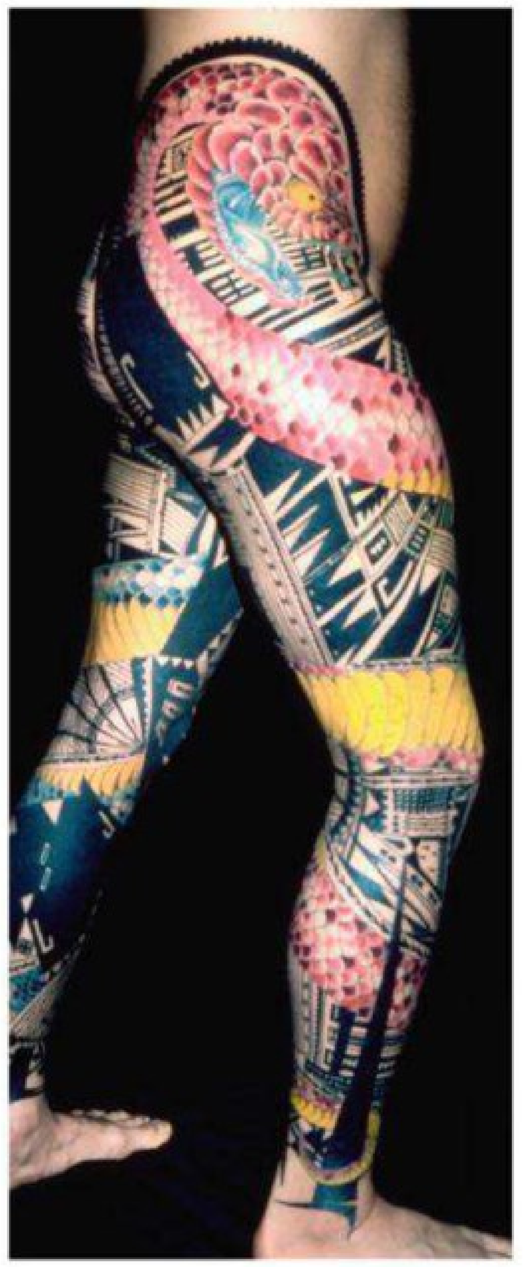
Emiko has been filming your work over a long period of time. We're really old friends and this just kind of happened. I had found out she did photography and video, and I asked her to document a wraparound leg tattoo I was doing on a guy from New Jersey who got a whole Japanese scene on

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"I STARTED GETTING SHIT [FOR THE ED HARDY BRAND] FROM ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. ... [FOR EXAMPLE] 'HARDY'S REALLY SOLD OUT.' I'M LIKE, 'WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS, THE SISTINE CHAPEL? RELAX.'"







his leg. I thought it would be very cool to have a moving photo of it instead of me taking pictures and trying to put it all together. Then she got turned on to the whole thing of moving images of tattoos that move, and it kind of segued into the film *Tattoo City*. I think she wrapped it up around 1979 or something like that, and it was a 30-minute piece. That was the beginning of it, and she just kept going and documenting me.

What's the most important thing you want people to take away from this story? I think the key thing, above and beyond any kind of subject is—it's corny to say it—but if you really have a dream, kids… For me, in the mid-'50s, the dream was tattooing. It was so not cool then. It was such a marginalized thing, and I was just driven to do it. When I got into it coming out of art school, it still was totally looked down upon, and I just thought it had a lot of great potential, primarily as a medium, and I wanted to pursue that. That's an important thing for people to know. But I know the playing field is so completely different now. People are always coming up to me saying, "Oh, I have a nephew or niece or whatever, who wants to be a tattooer, what's your advice?" And I say, "Well, they probably shouldn't do it. It's so crowded. It's not a sure thing. But if they are really driven to do it, maybe it will work." There was an interview with Bob Dylan, maybe about a couple of years ago, and someone asked him, "If you were 18 and going to get into music today, what would you say to people?" And he said, "I would never do it." Because he got into music at a time when it was right. I got into tattooing at a time when it was right.

Do you think the whole popularity of tattooing will dissipate? No, I don't think it will ever go away. My standard points are: I don't know why people get tattooed. I don't think there's a good answer. It's like, Why do you like art? It's just something that's a total mystery. That's part of the attraction. I think that for whatever reason, it's an impulse for our species—not for everyone, but certain people are just, Bam!

Almost like a tattoo gene? That's exactly it. Knowing how science has advanced over the centuries, maybe they'll figure it out, and at some point go, "Yes, this is what it is." But right now, the best we can do, and what we all have done, is emphasize the positive aspects and put it into a better social context. That's much more important than who is the best tattooer. We have to look at the bigger picture. Of course, that's important too—people striving to further the art and do stuff that's going to be more interesting.

In the documentary, it's said that your Realistic Tattoo Studio sparked an art movement. Could you discuss that a bit more? I think it did. My whole deal, getting into tattooing in a nutshell, was to do something really different with it, offer people something that was way beyond the standard recipe on the walls of shops. It was all pretty much one flavor with some variants, but more or less folk art. That's why, instead of going to graduate school and teaching art, I wanted to do that. After a number of years tattooing the street, tattooing in Vancouver and Seattle and then San Diego for four years, I went to Japan and experienced that firsthand working in a private studio. Although when I got there I realized that basically, they have their menu too; this place serves Japanese food. But it broadened my perspective. I came back and thought I could probably make it work in San Francisco or L.A. or New York because there was a large enough population base in those places of

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"TATTOOING CAN BE A FINE ART. IT CAN BE SUBLIME, MOVING, INSPIRATIONAL, OR FUNNY–ALL THE QUALITIES THAT ANY KIND OF ART COULD BE IN THE RIGHT HANDS. IT ALSO HAS THAT SUPERCHARGE THAT NOTHING ELSE HAS. A PERSON LOOKING AT A TATTOO IS NOT LOOKING AT A MUTE PAINTING."

people with enough alternative perspectives on life that they would maybe be interested in tattoos that were unique. So in 1974 we built this private studio in San Francisco, with the urging of my wife, Francesca, and it quickly took off. I began building a base of people, really by word of mouth of like-minded people. Because of the Bay Area's great tradition of bohemianism and eccentricity and alternate lifestyles and outlooks, it was a real fertile place for it. I was also getting a number of tattooers as clients from around the world pretty quickly—people who were often doing good work themselves and certainly interested in doing it. It was like they took the seeds of it and went, "Whoa, maybe I can go home and do this in my turf." … It kind of spawned things and took off that way. In that sense, I think it was an art movement—a conceptual way of doing commissioned work instead of offering something cut-and-dried off the wall.

Along those lines, would you say tattooing itself is a fine art? Lyle Tuttle gave an interview recently in a newspaper, and I loved this statement he made: "Listen, it's a practice. I'm tired of hearing it being called an art. It's a practice because a lot of it is just crap." I have a hard time with those categories of what is a fine art, and I do have a built-in chip on my shoulder from art school. I got my degree in printmaking. Printmakers and those into ceramics were looked down upon by people who were like sculptors and painters. Any kind of elitist thing, which is a natural human tendency, just stinks. The work has to stand up on its own merits. Tattooing can be a fine art. It can be sublime, moving, inspirational, or funny—all the qualities that any kind of art could be in the right hands. It also has that supercharge that nothing else has. A person looking at a tattoo is not looking at a mute painting. Some people even think they can start touching it.

Oh, hey! One of my favorite stories of Mike Malone, my great brother in the business—a very funny cat—is about a woman who came into China Sea Tattoo, the Honolulu shop he took over from [Sailor] Jerry when he died. The woman was in there talking to someone else and then just reached up and pulled Mike's sleeve up to see his tattoo. He turned around, didn't even lose a second, and pulled down her tube top. She flipped out and is going, "I just wanted to see it," and he said, "Yeah, me too!" There's that electricity, that particular kind of thing that you don't have with inanimate art.

Do you think today, especially with all the competition, it helps to have an art background before tattooing? I certainly think, for me personally, that it really helped. But I wouldn't say you have to to be a good tattooer. Certainly the great art impulse must come from within, really. As corny as it sounds, I really think it's better to be driven to do art because you have to. There's no one course that's better than another, but I think the passion has to be there for it to really count.

Is a traditional apprenticeship necessary? I know almost no one who went through a traditional apprenticeship. The usual way of people my age was you pestered somebody until they told you something. That's what I did. I had gone to Bert Grimm's and he wouldn't tell me anything because I was still little—I was 10—and he told me to come back around when I was 15. I bothered Phil Sparrow. And then I met Tom Yeomans, a great tattooer who worked with Jerry. People started helping me and I bullshitted my way into it. I know there are real traditional apprenticeships, but a lot of times I hear people go so off the deep end with the great masters, especially the Japanese. They want to be the great Hori or sensei and they put their "you're my apprentice" on and they're just strutting around. They take themselves way too seriously.

What was it that led to your retirement from tattooing? It's sort of a two-point thing. I had bad trouble with arthritis, and I had both of my hips replaced several years ago for a variety of reasons. My hands were going—just the wear and tear of it all. I tattooed for over 40 years, and then the single graceful thing that happened—with this whole brand thing falling on my head—was that I didn't have to depend on tattooing as an income. And that's what kicked it off. It also reconnected me with my personal art, and that was a revelation.

Tell us more about your personal art. I'm starting to work more abstractly, ever since I did that big dragon scroll in the year 2000—a 2,000-square-foot painting with 2,000 dragons on it. It freed me up completely. As soon as I finished that thing at the end of that summer in 2000, I started doing these very abstract paintings. I now paint with my whole body, not just the digits of my fingers as I would with a tattoo or etching. So my artwork just goes all different kinds of ways now. I don't have an agenda with it.

It's interesting how the Ed Hardy brand and unexpected commodification of tattooing has freed you up to do fine art. It seems at odds with commercialism in some way. Before Christian Audigier, I was approached by two guys who had a cool business; their whole thing with clothing was introducing an Asian feeling to their casual garments. They actually responded to an article about a painting show that Bob Roberts and I had at Track 16 in Santa Monica. I don't remember if it was 2003 or 2004, but they had seen the paintings and dug the Asian references in them. So I got into it, and that's how it started. Then Christian saw it and just went ape shit. He said, "I must have this license!" He's really from a different world. *[Laughs.]* He said that he'll make this huge thing, and of course I was like, Right, take me to the moon. And then it went. But he did have that genius eye to recognize that people would respond to it strongly. Really, all the stuff we were using was essentially classic flash. A lot of the images I originated, and a lot were reused from old classics. It was just like that bold, beautiful, well-painted, heavy shaded, Sailor Jerry aesthetic thing. Everything that makes classic tattoos cool or makes them appealing to a wide body of people. Then of course I started getting shit from all kinds of people. I loved hearing it.

What kind of shit? Well, "Hardy's really sold out." I'm like, "What do you think this is, the Sistine Chapel? Relax." Get some humor about it—as long as things are being presented right. We had some problems when my designs got screwed with for a while and some legal things about that. Essentially, it is just a facet of my art, and I'm proud of all the flash and all the classic tattoos I did.

What would you like to leave as your legacy? How would you like to be remembered? I think tattooing is the main thing. I think I did the most distinctive thing with that because I amplified its potential. If you find something that really speaks to you and you can make some kind of contribution to the world in some positive way, move forward with that.

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From left: Jesse Montano, Fred Harkins, Mike Choate, Ben Reel, Mizuz Inkaholik, Johnny Jackson, Jason Coquel, Aaron Johnson, Mikey Godwin, David Gray, Reagan Chapman.

TEXAS BODY ART

12537 JONES RD.
HOUSTON, TX
TEXASBODYART.COM

BY LANI BUESS
PORTRAIT AND INTERIOR BY JACK THOMPSON

John Lennon had Yoko Ono. Andy Warhol had Edie Sedgwick. Johnny Jackson, owner of Texas Body Art, has Mizuz Inkaholik. Jackson's muse comes in the form of a 5′10″ green-eyed pinup who just so happens to be his wife. Together, this dynamic duo is proving that you don't mess with Texas.

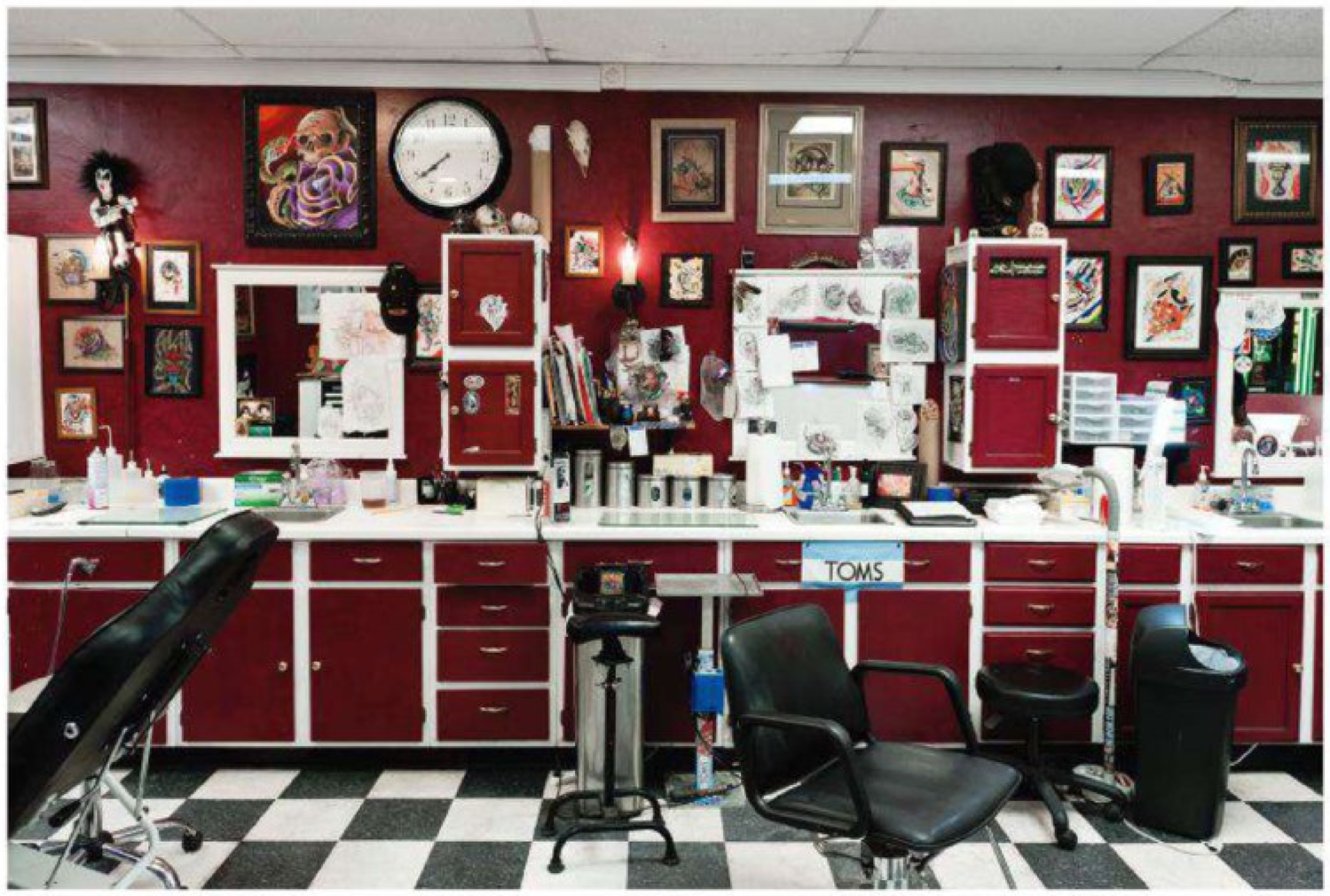
Jackson, a tattoo artist for more than 20 years, has forged a shop named best tattoo and piercing studio in Houston four years running with a 10-member staff that sets high expectations for itself. The Mizuz has her work cut out for herself as well, as she's responsible for setting up her husband's station, catering to clientele, and keeping the shop beautified. Jackson, in turn, serves as her pinup photographer. Her image, which has graced 13 magazine covers, has allowed her to prosper as a model and also has provided him with an ingenious marketing tool (having endured over 250 hours of pain at his station, she's a walking billboard for his work). "We had a courtship pretty much under the needle," says the artist with a slight southern drawl. "It challenged her not to be a whiny baby. She wanted to impress me, and I wanted to impress her by putting these badass tattoos on her."

While it all seems like a storybook ending today, Jackson's success didn't come overnight. He started his tattoo career at the bottom. In 1992 he apprenticed at Shaw's Tattoo Parlor, home of one of the oldest and most famous tattoo families in the United States. "I was attracted by the history and lineage," he says. "I didn't even know tattooing was this big. It just influenced me that this is what I wanted to do. I wanted to not just be a tattooer; I wanted to go out and be a great tattooer with my own name." He eventually became just that, opening his own shop in 1999 after a stint tattooing at a biker shop left him sour. "I wasn't even a biker and I didn't even own a Harley-Davidson, but there I was tattooing Bandidos and all these red, blue, purple, orange colors, you know?"

At his shop, Jackson takes the art form seriously, imposing strict standards for the benefit of the clients. He urges customers not to settle for run-of-the-mill RIP memorial tattoos found on flash sheets. "I see five years go by, and a person will mature and they've got to explain [that tattoo] over and over again to people when they see it. Automatically, you're emotionally hijacked back to five years ago

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Clockwise from top left: tattoo by Jesse Montano; interior of Texas Body Art; tattoo by Aaron Johnson; tattoo by Reagan Chapman; tattoo by Jorge A Gwooki; tattoo by Johnny Jackson; tattoo by Jason Coquel.

even though you've done your healing," he says. "I say there's a better way to do it, by choosing an element from a person's life, or something that they were into that doesn't necessarily bring up the sadness of the loss but celebrates the life instead."

Jackson hires his staff with just as much thoughtful consideration, not only factoring their artwork and experience into the hiring decision, but also their lifestyles. He prefers positive and ambitious artists in his shop and says he usually puts newbies "on probation for three months before they're given a shop key and [can become] part of the crew." He requires a three-year minimum shop stay, to boot.

Though his management style sounds stern, Jackson has a soft, spiritual side that comes out when he discusses tattooing. He credits the field for saving him from running the streets and questions those biased against people with tattoos. "Anybody who would judge me because I'm wearing a tattoo, they're thinking worldly. But don't we drop these shells on the ground when we're dead?" he asks. "It's what's inside, it's our spirit [that] God judges, our heart … and we're not tattooing that."

Inkaholik has a similar desire to enlighten those who may not understand the couple's world. A former permanent cosmetics technician, she says she models to set a good example for the younger generation. "I don't do nudity in my photography … I try to carry myself like a lady." She wants to break the existing stereotype of inked-up women and show that all types of females, including the heavily tattooed one, have class. From Houston, this couple will continue that sentiment one tattoo at a time.

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JK5

FROM: Daredevil Tattoo
VISIT: jk5nyc.com

There's a spontaneous element to your work. Where does that come from? I think art is all about exploration, play, and constantly generating ideas. In everything I'm doing, there's always sort of a nervous, inventive, creative spontaneity for my own personal need to see things new appear, to keep things fresh and interesting. So whatever I'm doing, whatever the project, it's always just one mind, one heart, one hand. Spontaneity for me is about harnessing and capturing that spark of imaginative subconscious information.

Has tattooing in New York affected your style? It's the beating geographical heart of where I'm from. Here there's more soul and spirit, teeming with life and bursting all the time. From Walt Whitman to Ken Burns, you weave yourself into the tapestry of everyone who's ever come before you. Tattooing here has been extraordinary for my education and my inspiration, being a part of this tribe and this community.

There seems to be a steady Eastern influence in your designs. What's that about? I found it through my visual studies, doing lots of Tibetan work, lots of Sanskrit, the whole Japanese school of tattooing, and Buddhist narratives and mythology—and being a big nerd for religion and mythology for my whole life. It infuses everything I do with an underlying communication, down to the Sanskrit English-ified letterforms that I designed for the cover of my book [*Tatt Book: Visionaries of Tattoo*]. Visually, the calligraphic strokes—being pulled from a horizontal top bar—blew me away as I learned to synthesize Sanskrit and English. You could say that it's a letterform, and that it's part Sanskrit, East L.A. cholo, and Tolkien Elvish script.

You also seem to draw inspiration from the sci-fi community, specifically *Star Wars*. There's more artwork and sampling of *Star Wars* than any other pop culture phenomenon ever. Many tattoo artists in our generation are huge sci-fi nerds. It's like a parallel religion on all levels for what it was like to be a kid in the '70s.

What are you working on now, tattoo-wise? I'm trying to push letterforms and equidistant line work and patterns. The script has really grown into a whole new way of thinking about the written word. Whatever imagery people want from me, I'm just trying to keep it interesting and in that moment, whether it's a collar rocker with a Kurt Vonnegut quote, or a wolf with some sacred geometry and some feathers. It's just about keeping it as fun and creative as possible.



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NAME: Shelby Johnson

SHOP GIRL AT: Canvas Tattoo Studio, Eden Prairie, MN

I WAS THE KID THAT GOT HER FIRST TATTOO AND KEPT GOING BACK FOR MORE. I had gone to tattoo shops and really liked the atmosphere and the people I met. Tattoos seem like a cool field but I'm not really artistically inclined. I'm more of a collector and appreciator of them.

THIS SHOP IS UNLIKE A LOT OF CONVENTIONAL TATTOO SHOPS. The space is open and the walls are painted with a calming color scheme. We have a lot of Buddhas and Asian-themed artwork on the walls to create a chill atmosphere. And we play different genres of music, from metal to rap to electronica.

PEOPLE YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT TO BE TATTOOED COME IN. We don't get just teenagers, we get older people and corporate people too. I have a lot of respect for them. They say "Screw you" to society and reinforce that tattoos don't necessarily have the stigma they used to.

Know a stellar shop assistant who keeps the autoclave humming and the tattoo stations organized? E-mail us at shopgirl@inkedmag.com.

photo by SARA RUBINSTEIN

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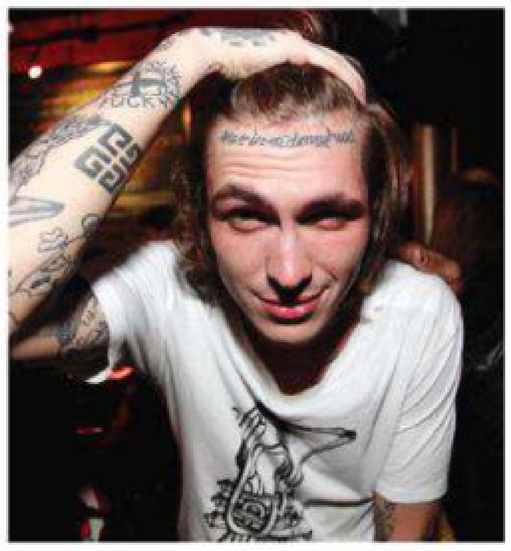
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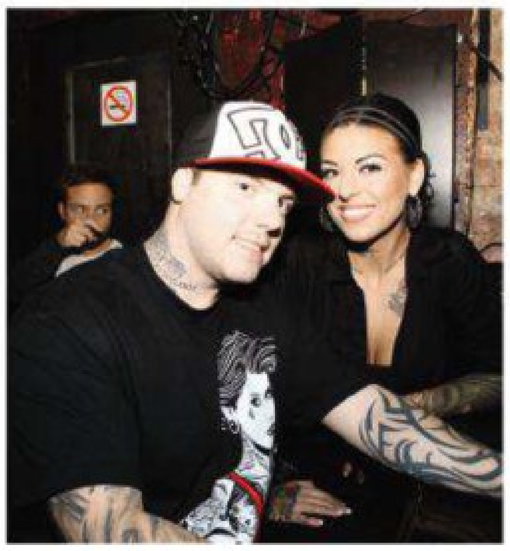
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INKED'S OCTOBER RELEASE PARTY

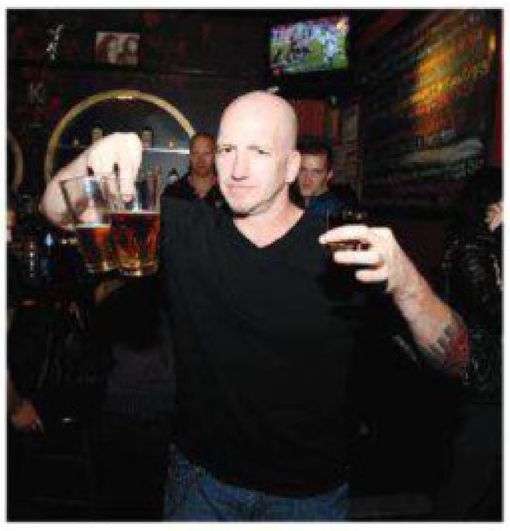
We toasted our October issue with Jagermeister drinks—try mixing it with root beer, amazing!—at Pete Wentz's joint, Angels and Kings, in New York's Lower East Side. The atmosphere was electric, the music was quality, and the crowd was filled with beautiful people and the slightly less attractive people we have on staff.

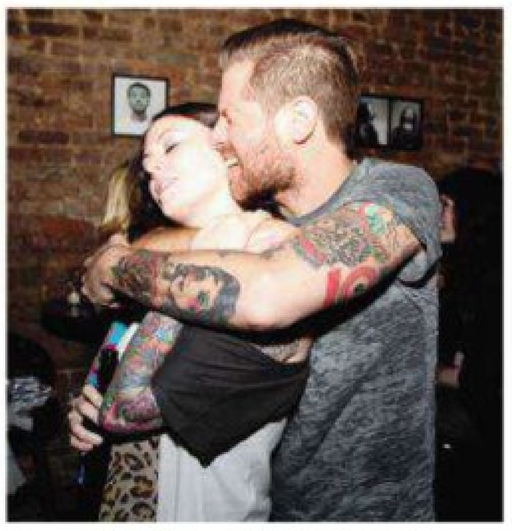














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INKED collaborated with 2Kool2BTrue to create this Lost in Neverland T-shirt ($26.99, store.inkedmag.com). Too cool to be true? No longer.



RAISE A FLASK

We all know what to do with a flask; but having this little reminder from Bettie Page to look at between sips doesn't hurt. Available now online in the Inked Store ($29.99, store.inkedmag.com).



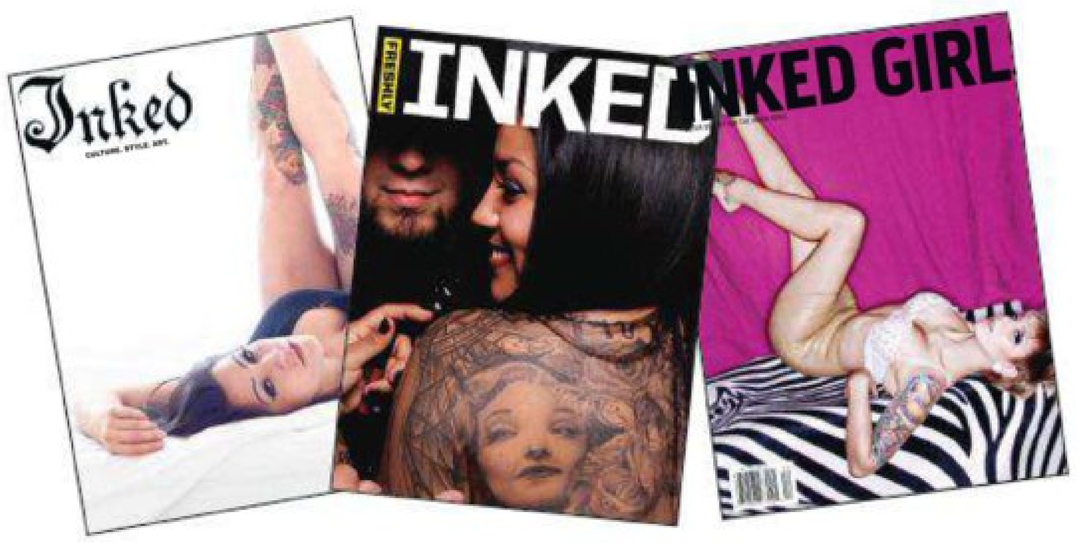
GET YOUR BETTIE FIX

Doug P'gosh and Retro-A-Go-Go make cool canvas prints like this one ($20, shop.inkedmag.com) along with other retro-inspired accessories and clothing.



NEW ARTWORK BY SIMON HAYAG

Will your sins be forgiven when you put on this T-shirt ($24, store.inkedmag.com) by Sullen Clothing? Hell no. But hey, at least you won't be wearing another lame shirt!

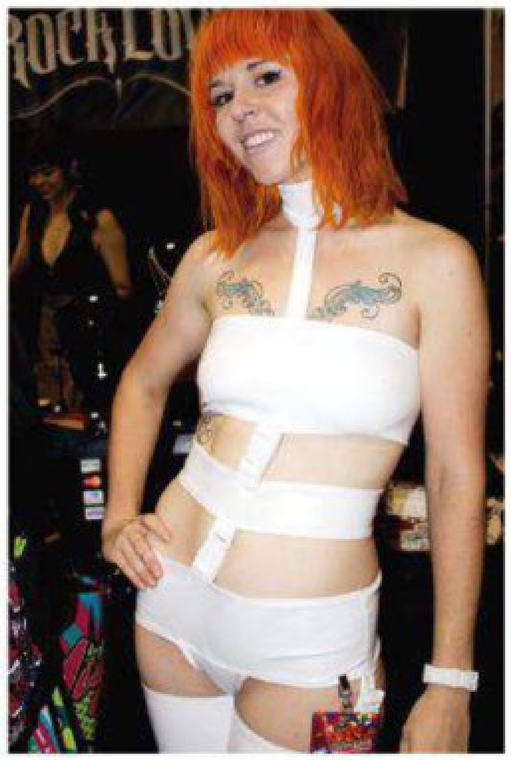
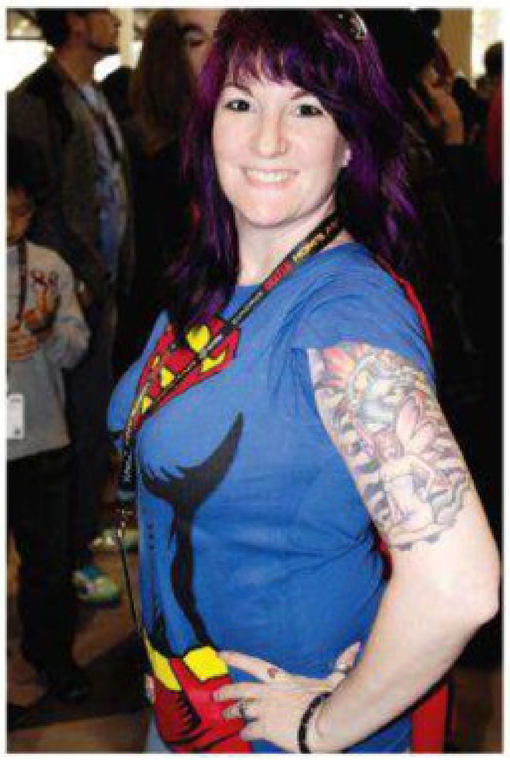


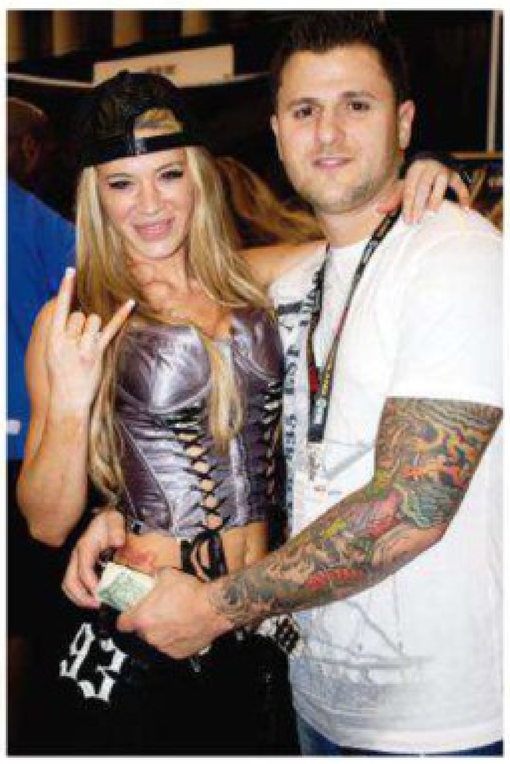
YOU, ON THE INKED COVER

See what you would look like on the cover of INKED, *Freshly Inked*, or *Inked Girls*. Simply upload your photo and become an cover model! ($19.95, store.inkedmag.com)

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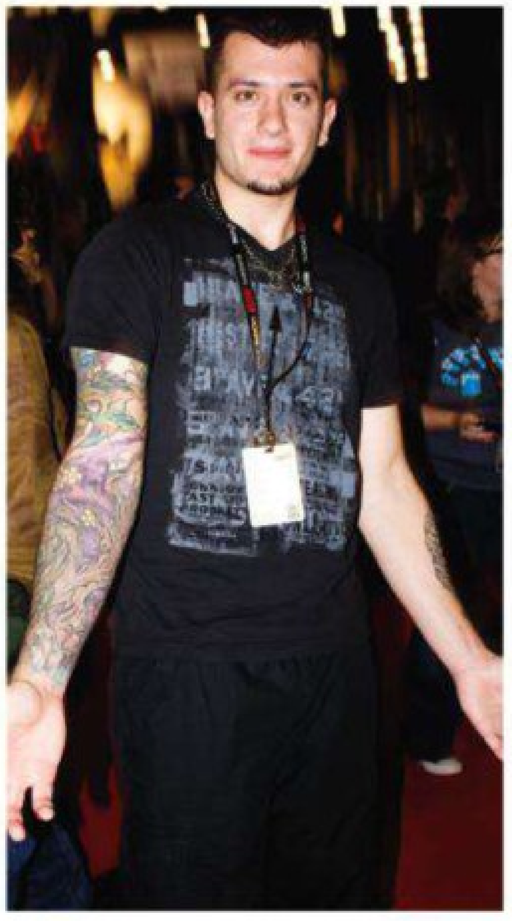
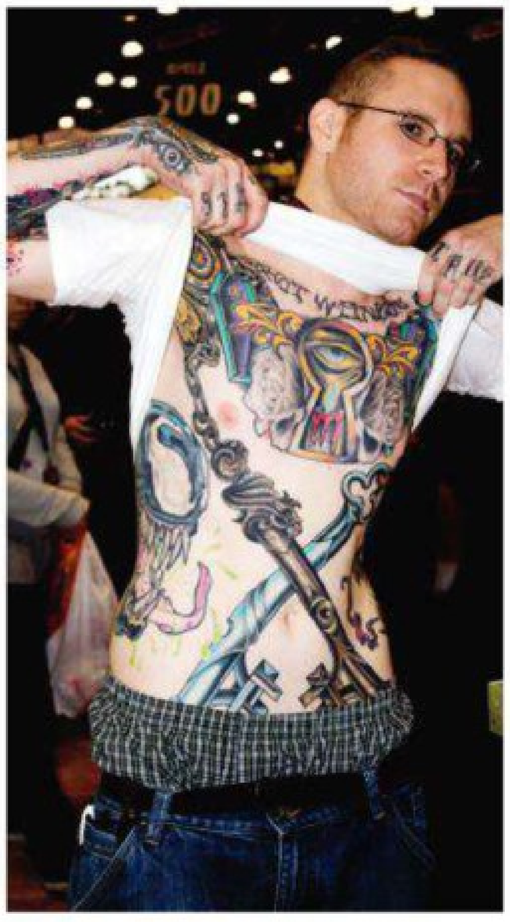




NEW YORK CITY COMIC CON

From hiding in gym class to now holding two of the larger conventions in America, the geeks are inheriting the earth. Those not in full costume getup at NYC Comic Con had some sick ink.



photos by LIZZIE MILLER

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Inked

GET INKED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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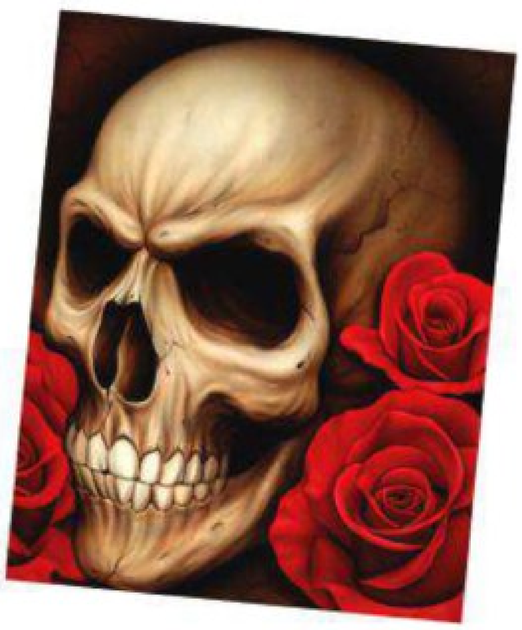
DISTINCTIVE METAL WEAR

WATTO's signature belt buckle ($85, store.inkedmag.com) is a wearable piece of art completely handmade of steel by metal artist Jon WATTO Watson.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGNS

Artist, Jime Litwalk and graphic designer, Chris Parks, created this Day of the Dead Tiki T-shirt ($24, shop.inkedmag.com) for Steadfast Brand by combining Polynesian art with Mexicali flair.



TATTOO ART PRINTS

The juxtaposition between beauty and the macabre is present in this print ($19.95, store.inkedmag.com) by Black Market Art Company. See what other prints are in store on our website.



THE BADDER THE BETTER

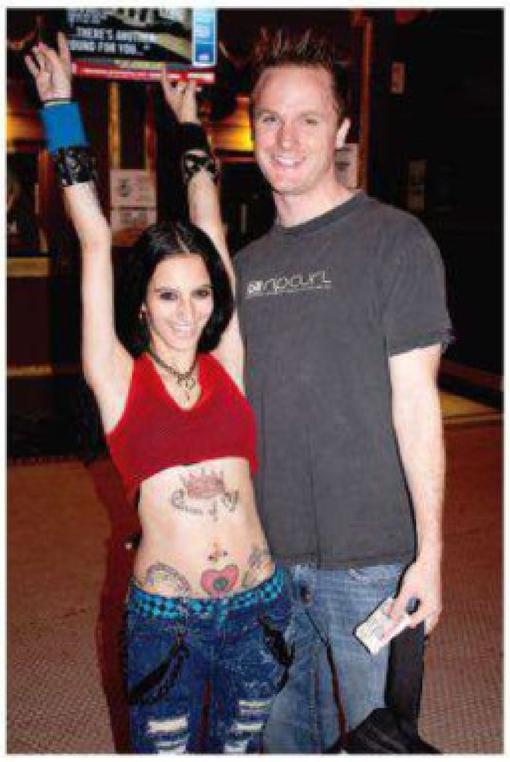
"I want you to go into that bag and find my wallet," says Jules in *Pulp Fiction*. "It's the one that says 'Bad Motherfucker.'" Cop this 100% genuine leather wallet ($59, store.inkedmag.com) made by the good folks at Badcock Apparel.



DRAW GUNS

INKED partnered with The Ministry Online for this shirt ($19.95, store.inkedmag.com) to show off the guns. Relax, stud, we're talking about a tattoo machine-turned-gun here with the bold message: "Take nothing for granted … draw guns."







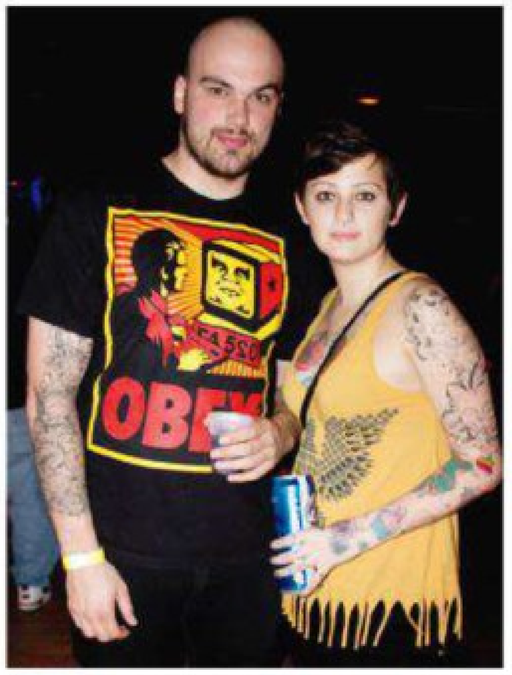
NOFX AT THE FILLMORE

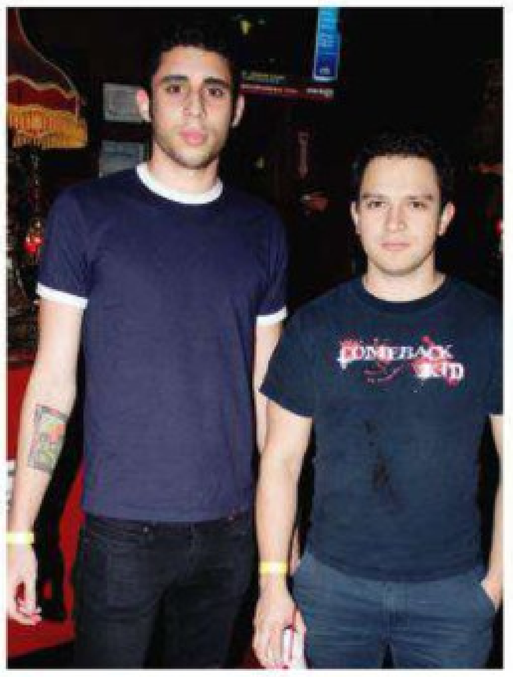
Live Nation brought NOFX, Anti-Flag, Old Man Markley, and Break on Through to the Fillmore at Irving Plaza, and the punk fans brought their awesome ink. Even the merch man was grinning at the sweet skin effects.











photos by LIZZIE MILLER

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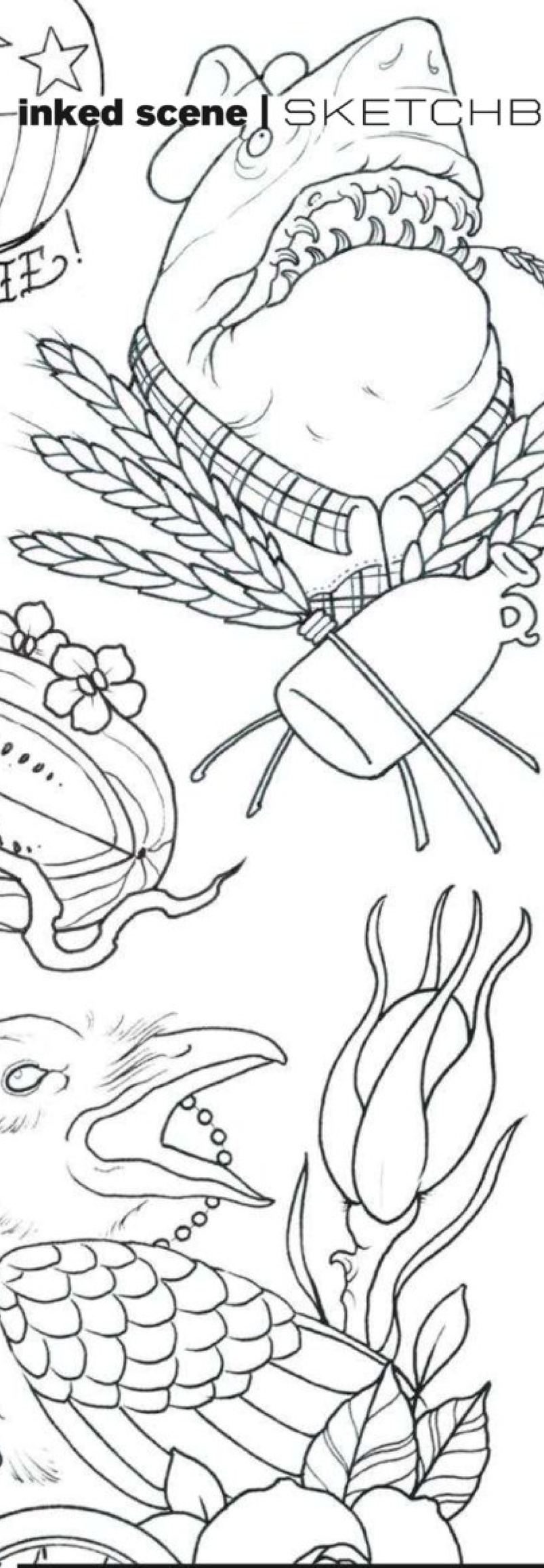








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ROSS CARLSON

Optic Nerve Arts, 1223 NE Alberta St., Portland, OR, opticnervearts.com and Art Work Rebels, 510A NW 23rd Ave., Portland, OR, artworkrebels.com

This Portland tattooer thinks of himself as a hired gun. "When I tattoo I'm trying to create … a paycheck. I've got a foreign wife and two dick cats to feed," Ross Carlson says. "Tattooing is a service job; we create what the customer wants as best we can. Sometimes it's a rad skull and dagger; other times it's a tribal football. My favorite tattoo genre is traditional Americana and Japanese—Japacana, if you will." Though he sometimes makes art for himself, he values his customer. "One form of art pays my bills, and the other sits in the corner of my office neglected and covered in dust." And when the grim reaper comes for his final check, Carlson would like a skull and dagger on his headstone that reads, *I'll thank you kindly not to loot my corpse. P.S. I have a solid gold coffin.*

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